

APPENDICES

TO

FIRST REPORT.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN IN DUBLIN FROM SEPTEMBER 1893 TO OCTOBER, 1906.

BY

DOCUMENTS RELATING THERETO

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty



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ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

The Right Hon. The EARL OF DUNDY, G.C.V.O.

The Right Hon. Sir A. P. MACDONNELL, G.C.S.I.

The Right Hon. Sir JOHN C. R. COLONS, K.C.M.G.

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ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq., Chairman of the Fishery Board for Scotland.

Secretary—

WALTER GALLAN, Esq.

TERMS OF REFERENCE.

"To inquire into and report upon the operations of the Acts dealing with Congestion in Ireland, the working of the Congested Districts Board, and the Land Commission under these Acts, and the relations of the Board with the Land Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction; what areas (if any) outside the districts now scheduled as congested, require to be dealt with as congested; what lands are most conveniently situated for the relief of congestion; what changes in law or administration are needed for dealing with the problem of congestion as a whole, for facilitating the migration of the surplus population from congested areas to other lands, and generally for bettering the condition of the people inhabiting congested areas."

Mr. DORAN.

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

FIRST PUBLIC SITTING.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH, 1906.

AT 11 O'CLOCK A.M.

At 35, Dawson-street, Dublin.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUBLIN, G.C.V.O. (Chairman); The Right Hon. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL, G.C.B.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLEMAN, K.C.M.G.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; CONOR O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., B.A.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS examined.

1. The CHAIRMAN.—I believe you are a member of the Local Government Board of Ireland?—Yes, my lord.

2. You were, I believe, the first Secretary of the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, I was appointed on the formation of the Board in 1891, and I ceased to be Secretary in May, 1898.

3. And as you were the first Secretary of the Congested Districts Board I suppose you are familiar with the considerations and reasons which led to the formation of the Board and with the questions which had to be considered at that time?—I was not very well aware of what had taken place with reference to the formation of the Board or why it was formed, but I am aware of what took place after its formation.

4. Would you tell us what you knew of what took place at that time?—Yes. At the time I was appointed Secretary I was appointed not merely as Secretary but the duty of inspection was also placed upon me, and, in order to enable me to inspect, a strong Assistant Secretary was sanctioned by the Treasury to assist in discharging the office duties. Mr. O'Brien still holds the office. As to the meaning of the word "congested," it is a phrase as to which I have not heard out exactly when it started or how it came to be employed. The first place I have seen it in is a speech of Sir Michael Hicks Beach, who was Chief Secretary for Ireland in 1887, and in a speech in the House of Commons on an address to Her Majesty he made the following remarks:—"I do not wish to shrink one iota from the duty, the very difficult duty, that is cast upon me in my capacity as a member of the Government responsible for the state of Ireland in dealing with this great important and difficult question of the congested districts of Ireland." I can assure the honourable member that we will do our best to propose to Parliament, and that before long, some measures that may ameliorate the condition of the unfortunate inhabitants of these districts.* The word "congested" does not at all imply, as one would suppose, an overcrowding of people on the land. The Congested Districts, as some of the members of the Commission are aware, are very thinly populated regarding area. The phrase really means very poor districts. It is only a euphemism for great poverty.

5. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But there is a statutory definition, is there not, of a congested district?—Oh, yes; a statutory definition which I will give you, sir. The statutory definition was adopted merely as a test to show what districts would come within the power of the Board. Various means were adopted to find out a test. First, I think, the Government found out what districts ought to be "congested," and then they found out a rule that would, roughly speaking, bring those districts and no others under that definition. As regards the test for a congested district, Ireland is divided for Poor Law purposes into Poor Law Unions and Electoral Divisions, electoral divisions, I may say, taking the place of parishes in England. In other words, and without going into technical details, I may say briefly that every electoral division in the Counties of Donegal, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, and the West Riding of Cork, was scheduled as congested where the total rateable valuation of the electoral division on being divided by the number of the population amounts to a sum of less than £1 10s. for each individual. For instance if the valuation of an electoral division was £1,500 and the population 1,001 people or any greater number, that division became congested. The test was the ratio between valuation and population.

6. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Was there not also a condition relating to twenty per cent. in the first clause of the Congested Districts Act?—Yes, there was.

7. The CHAIRMAN.—In the 36th section of the Act of 1891?—Yes. The Act mentions more than twenty per cent. of the population of a county, or, in the case of the County Cork, of either Riding.

8. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That is the statutory definition we have to do with?—You may take it that that is the ratio that fixed the districts with which the Congested Districts Board had to deal.

And with which we have to deal also?—

Mr. BRYCE.—Not necessarily with which we have to deal. Our reference is wider than the statutory definition.

9. The CHAIRMAN.—It does not follow that the congested districts are thickly populated, but the definition does provide that twenty per cent. of the population of the county must live in the electoral divisions which are scheduled?—I don't think that is quite it.

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* The expression "Congested Districts," as applied to the poorest parts of the West of Ireland, was in use several years before the date mentioned—e.g., it occurs in the First Report of the Committee of "Mr. Tuke's Fund," issued in June, 1885, and in Mr. Sydney Baxter's Special Report, dated 10th March, 1883. No doubt the fact that Emigration—usually a remedy reserved for Congestion properly so called—was then the favourite measure of amelioration for the poorest parts of the West of Ireland led to their being rather inappropriately described as "Congested Districts."

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Laurie Macdonnell

10. Surely twenty per cent. of the population of the county must live in certain electoral divisions before those divisions can be scheduled as congested?—No; but when twenty per cent. of the population of the county live in electoral divisions for which the total valuation gives the result I have stated.

11. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The electoral division might not be scheduled as congested unless the county to which it belonged contained twenty per cent. of its population living in such electoral divisions?—That is it, my lord.

12. Except under one head, for the purpose of migration or emigration. By the Act of 1891 you have this extended to any electoral division provided that it answered the first condition of congestion?—Yes.

13. That the valuation divided by the population gave a sum under 30s.; is not that so?—That is so. What I really wanted to convey, my lord, was that this test, this ratio, does not rest on any principle.

14. The CHAIRMAN.—No; it is an arbitrary test. It is a test that was worked out. A number of other tests were tried, and this was finally adopted as one that would carry out the views of the Government in scheduling certain districts. They first, roughly speaking, fixed on certain districts, and then made a test to bring those in and keep others out.

15. Can you tell us what other alternatives were considered by the Government at that time?—I cannot, my lord; but I am sure the Registrar-General would give it.

16. Does the present definition satisfy you?—Oh, no, my lord, it does not. I mean you have very large districts all over Ireland which are practically as much in need of assistance and yet are excluded.

17. Have you thought of all of any definition which would bring them in?—I cannot think of any definition or ratio such as this. I really think it should be a matter for the discretion of the body.

18. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You could give us an instance?—It might be after public inquiry, or in the absolute discretion. There is not a county in Ulster to which it does not apply. Take the County Down. You have all the eastern side of the county along the Mourne Mountains inhabited by poor people. Take the Glens of Antrim from Larne round to Ballycastle, and along that coast where the glens go down to the sea coast, they are all in need of assistance.

19. Mr. BRYAN.—The Island of Rathlin, for instance, also?—Yes; that is an extreme case, also. Then you have got part of the County Tyrone that reaches along the borders of the County Derry from Cookstown to Strabane.

20. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—They are in the neighbourhood of a very prosperous country, are they not?—They are on distinctly poor land, mountain land.

21. But they are in the neighbourhood of better?—They are from three to twelve miles perhaps from good land.

22. Does that distinguish them from the statutory congested districts as you know them?—I should not think so if you consider merely the condition of the people.

23. Would you say that these districts in Down and elsewhere are within easy access of richer areas while the congested districts in Mayo are not?—That is quite true.

24. Would you find in that fact any differentiation between the two classes?—Yes. They would not be in so low a category, but I should say they are in a very poor way, a great many of those people.

25. Then it is a question of where you are to draw the line?—It is a question of where you are to draw the line, and I cannot make any suggestion except giving a discretion to the body having to deal with it.

26. The CHAIRMAN.—Would you give to the Congested Districts Board a discretion to deal with any of those areas if they were satisfied that the conditions were poor enough, or would you have some arrangements by which if after an inquiry their condition was proved to be very poor, the Congested Districts Board might be empowered to deal with them?—Yes, that would be so. Later on I would give it perhaps more fully. That would be so, roughly speaking.

27. Is it not a fact that after the Act was passed and the areas were being scheduled the Lord Lieu-

tenant of the day had power to include any areas in the congested districts which seemed to him deserving of being treated by the Congested Districts Board?—There was an opinion given by counsel on that matter and my recollection of it is—I am speaking from recollection and of course it was by the Law Officers—my recollection of the opinion is that the power was considered very small. Here is a list of the Congested Districts (produced), and any that have an asterisk were added by His Excellency on the report of the Congested Districts Board.

28. The provision that I am referring to follows the section defining the expression congested districts?—Sub-section 2.

29. And it is provided that if within one year from the passing of this Act it appears to the Congested Districts Board that it is expedient to include under the provisions of this section any electoral divisions, other than the electoral divisions hereinbefore mentioned, or to exclude therefrom any electoral division, it shall be lawful for the Lord Lieutenant, on report of the Board, to include or exclude, as the case may be, such divisions. That would seem to give the Lord Lieutenant absolute power to include any electoral division where the poverty was great?—In a congested districts county.

30. Oh, it is in a congested districts county only?—I think so.

31. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—And it is within one year?—Yes; but the effect remains for all time.

32. Quite so; but the power was exercisable only for a year?—Yes, that is so.

33. The CHAIRMAN.—The power of the Lord Lieutenant was exercisable for a year only; but when do you find that they had to be within a congested districts county?—I have no doubt that that was held to be the meaning of it.

34. You remember that that was so?—I am quite sure of it.

35. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think you said the Law Officers so advised?—The Law Officers were asked to advise on the question. I cannot state off-hand what their opinion was. The Census was in progress at the time the Act passed, and some electoral divisions were placed in the list of congested districts by the Board on the preliminary figures of the Census, and then the Census distinctly ascertained the figures, and when the Census came out a few other districts were found to come within the margin. It was a case of a few pennies that brought these in, and these were added. Some others were put in because all the districts round them were congested, within a year after; but there was no question ever raised of making any place in an additional county congested.

36. The CHAIRMAN.—Would not it meet your view if that power was to be revived, and if the Lord Lieutenant of the day was able to include?—I think the Lord Lieutenant would not be in a position to do it, but that it would be the Board that would have to deal with this matter. It would hardly be a matter that the Government would have so much experience of.

37. But if the Lord Lieutenant were, as frequently, to act on the report of the Board?—I would rather leave it to the discretion of the Board.

38. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You would not deprive the Lord Lieutenant of the power of getting important information on such a simple point as this from other sources than the Board?—I would give the Board the power absolutely.

39. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Do you recollect in Scotland what scheduling powers the Congested Districts Commission had?—I don't remember whether they had the power themselves to schedule.

40. I think you may take it that they had the power?—I recommend that the Board should have this power in Ireland.

41. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Absolute power?—Absolute power.

42. The CHAIRMAN.—That would be rather a strong power to give, would it not?—I think you would be giving it to people who had the means of exercising the power properly.

43. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It would be altogether a new departure, would it not?—You cannot point to any other mode of doing it?—I would recommend it, certainly, as a new departure.

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44. The CHAIRMAN.—I think once, in giving evidence before a Royal Commission, you said that you thought that the townland should be substituted as the unit of congestion for the electoral division—I speak from memory, and I may be misquoting you in this, but if so, you will correct me. Do you still hold that opinion or have you altered it?—I think I have developed it a good deal since then. I think I would go further, and give the power to the body, not merely for a townland, but for such area as they thought fit.

45. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Power to the Congested Districts Board to declare an area congested, no matter what its size?—No matter what its size.

46. Mr. BAYNE.—What is your definition of an area?—It is any locality. I mean any place; that would include towns.

47. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You would leave an absolute discretion to the Congested Districts Board, without control?—I would leave them an absolute discretion, without control.

48. To schedule what would be an area to be treated as a congested area?—To schedule an area to be improved and developed.

49. To be treated as a congested area?—I don't like the word at all.

50. But I am asking you the question?—Yes, as a congested area. But I don't like the word. It is another word for very poor.

51. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would you give them that power outside the present congested counties?—Yes, all over Ireland.

52. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I understood you to say that you would give it even as to towns, apart from agricultural holdings?—I would.

53. Would you go further, and alter in any way the statutory definition of congestion?—Oh, yes; that definition should be repealed.

54. Would you have any rateable valuation?—No rateable tax.

55. Would not that land you into pure caprice?—No; into the exercise of deliberate judgment. I say that the whole country, from my point of view, except a very few places, requires developing; and I should like to see the Congested Districts Board, or whatever body was appointed, given power and income to effect the necessary improvements.

56. Even to start all sorts of industries?—Even to start all sorts of industries.

57. And subsidise them?—I would not call it "subsidise."

58. It would be subsidising?—It might; but I would not use that phrase.

59. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It would be subsidising, but you would not like to call it so?—No; it would be developing the country in a way that it is entitled to. That is my own view, of course.

60. The CHAIRMAN.—That power should be given to the Congested Districts Board?—Or to any other independent body in its place.

61. Do you contemplate allowing the Congested Districts Board, or some other Department in Ireland, to found an industry, and to provide the capital, and run that industry as a private individual would, in order to develop a locality?—I think that would be a very extreme action; a very extreme case. I should not like to do it in such an extreme way; but there are a number of ways in which industrial efforts are made in localities, and I should like the body to supplement the local efforts.

62. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—To bring out your point about industries—you would not propose to start any industry where ultimately you did not expect that the industry would commercially hold the field?—I think it would be madness if, after a very short time, it could not stand on its own feet.

63. And you think that there are many districts which, through bad treatment in the past, are in a very low and backward condition?—Yes.

64. And that the people there are entitled to some assistance to start industries that would suit them, and to be aided for a time with a little public money?—Yes.

65. But you would not propose to go on subsidising even these industries?—No; I think they should have a comparatively short period of assistance. There is a case in point at present in one part of Ireland, where something over £15,000 has been subscribed.

66. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Was not that place Foxford?—No, but something similar took place there.

67. Mr. BAYNE.—In County Mayo?—Yes. Foxford is in the County Mayo.

68. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—Coming back to the question of scheduling any area, rural or urban, regardless of all questions of rateable value, would you give that Board the power to schedule those places?—Yes, and to take action in them.

69. With the object of improving them by public expenditure?—By expenditure of the public money.

70. Therefore, would you tell me how you think it would work with regard to the exercise of the discretionary power where it actually affects the public expenditure of the country. Do you propose to give them the power, after scheduling, to recommend so much money to be spent?—No. I propose to give them a large income to spend in the same way that the Congested Districts Board can spend it, for the development of the country.

71. And then, the expenditure being fixed, the amount of money being fixed, and the discretion of the Board being large, it would mean that the discretion of the Board in scheduling some areas would reduce the amount of money to be spent on very poor ones?—I should not think it ought to be so at all. That would depend, of course, on the amount of money to be got.

72. The CHAIRMAN.—They would have to cut their coat according to their cloth?—Exactly, my lord.

73. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—But while admitting that there are many poor districts in need of scheduling, would it not be reasonable to say that scheduled areas contain the very poorest districts in Ireland?—They contain districts as poor as there are anywhere as far as I know. There are other districts where there is great poverty, but I think you may say, roughly, that the congested districts contain by far the poorest.

74. Take a year of distress; would it not be fair to say that the greatest trouble arises west of a line from Cape Clear to Malin Head?—Yes, the greatest arises in West Galway and West Mayo, and East Mayo, too.

75. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—In fact, under your scheme, the Board would cease to be a Board merely for the relief of congestion, but would become a Board for the purpose of industrial improvement in Ireland?—Yes, for improvement in Ireland with respect to industrial and other matters.

76. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—As to this suggestion, that industries should be developed in the poorer districts with public help, you have gone into the question of the amount and heaviness of indirect taxation in those districts?—Well, I have not gone into it very closely. I gave evidence before the Royal Commission on Financial Relations, but I was not asked much from that point of view. I chiefly gave evidence as to the way in which indirect taxes affect those people.

77. You are aware that the sum spent on tea and tobacco is very large in those parts of the country?—Yes; relatively to their income, it is enormously large.

78. I suppose that a heavy indirect tax is being paid by people who, according to the principles of economic science, have not reached the standard to pay taxes at all?—I should think so.

79. That being so, would you consider that these people have a very fair claim for judicious advances from the Exchequer for the developing of their industries to build up the industrial resources of the locality?—Yes, and I think people in other parts where there used to be industries, and where they have ceased to exist, have, perhaps, even a stronger claim.

80. You once submitted detailed information as to budgets of household expenditure in those districts which showed that there were many households who had not reached the standard of decent existence?—Yes.

81. And in the sums spent on tea and tobacco those people pay an enormous amount of taxes, don't they?—Yes, relatively to their income.

82. My point is this—seeing that it is not a question of a remnant of the population joined on to a rich area or to a progressive centre, but that there is a question of the main population there, would it not be just that there should be a large provision out of Exchequer funds for the developing of the resources of those people so as to bring them up to a proper economic condition?—I think that would be only just; but at the same time I think that in

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other parts of the country where industries have decayed, owing to direct or indirect interference with them, the claim of the people is irresistible on the ground of justice.

83. **THE CHAIRMAN**.—I don't want to interrupt this train of thought, but won't those considerations come in rather more appropriately later on?—That is what I wished to say. They would come more properly at the last paragraph.

84. **MR. BRYCE**.—Where do you say, Mr. Micks, those budgets of expenditure were contained?—They are in the First Report of the Congested Districts Board. I have pencilled in at the top of the pages of the copy I hand in the districts for which these were made.

85. **SIR ANTOINET MACDONNELL**.—As I understand you the point that emerges from your evidence, Mr. Micks, is this, that you would abolish the limitation that arises from the statutory definition of congestion?—I would, certainly.

86. And you would extend the beneficial power of the Congested Districts Board not only to the present scheduled areas, but generally?—Yes.

87. Throughout Ireland?—Yes, throughout Ireland.

88. To towns as well as rural districts?—Yes, to urban districts as well as to rural.

89. And that you would leave all the operations and the expenditure entirely to the Board itself without a test?—I cannot think of any plan of making a test. I have thought of plans and I found it very difficult. I have some population returns here that are interesting. There is a return here for the counties of Ireland taken from the Census returns of 1861, 1871, and 1881, for each county in Ireland, excluding towns, for the agricultural population; and it shows that in every single county in Ireland there has been a continuous steady drop in population. Antrim has dropped from 205,000 in 1861 to 182,000 in 1881, and in 1891 to 153,000. Armagh has dropped from 126,000 in 1861 to 107,000 in 1881, and then to 95,000. Cavan has dropped from 201,000 to 180,000, and then to 168,000. Down has dropped from 308,000 to 283,000, and then to 197,000. I will hand in this return to Mr. Callan. It shows that in every county in Ireland there has been a drop, and I think that when there is a steady drop in population that shows that the country is in need of development.*

90. There is only one more question I would ask you. For such a large extension of the work as that, would you propose any radical modification in the constitution of the Board?—I will refer to that later.

91. Very good?—Now I give in a similar return for the towns. It is not a uniform decrease in the towns. Some have risen, but the majority of them have fallen off steadily.

92. **SIR FRANCIS MOWATT**.—Those figures are taken from the last Census?—1861, 1871, and 1891.

93. Yes, but it carries it up to the last Census?—It carries it up to the last Census.

94. **THE CHAIRMAN**.—Now, Mr. Micks, will you pass to the next point on which you would like to say something. I think you would like to say something about the Board as first constituted?—Yes. The Act of 1891, which was intended to improve the condition of the West of Ireland, created the Congested Districts Board, and endowed it with an annual income of £41,250 out of the Irish Church Surplus. The Board consisted of ten members; two ex-officio, one of them the Chief Secretary, and the other a member of the Land Commission; five permanent, and three temporary members, all of whom were unpaid in respect of their services. The members of the Board at their first meeting resolved unanimously that the Chief Secretary for Ireland for the time being should be their chairman, or, in his absence, the Under-Secretary, who, under the Act of Parliament, represents the Chief Secretary in his absence. Mr. Arthur Balfour was accordingly the first chairman of the Board, as well as the Minister who introduced the Bill into Parliament for the creation and endowment of the Board. He was succeeded in turn by Mr. Jackson, Mr. Gerald Balfour, Mr. Wyndham, Mr. Long, and Mr. James Bryce. And I think it is no harm to mention that the Board is a non-political board, and that it has kept clear of any considerations of that sort.

95. **MR. REV. DR. O'DONNELL**.—As you are on that point I hope I will not interrupt you to say how the Congested Districts Board is not under the usual sanctions a Government board?—I was going on to say that

while the Board has kept pretty clear of party politics the majority of the members are also free from the control of the Government of the day, because the Board is not a department in the ordinary sense of the word. It is not represented by any minister responsible to Parliament, for the Chief Secretary is not, ex-officio, chairman, but is chairman by the election of his colleagues.

96. Of the Board?—Of the Board. And full powers have been conferred on the Board.

97. **SIR ANTOINET MACDONNELL**.—May I ask you what is your authority for saying that?

98. **MR. REV. DR. O'DONNELL**.—There is a memorandum from Mr. Arthur Balfour (produces memorandum)?—At the time there was some question about this. When Mr. Jackson arrived here as Chief Secretary he raised that question, and this is a memorandum that was made and adopted. It is headed—

"Memorandum embodying my Interpretation of Land Act as far as it deals with the relations between the Congested Districts Board and Government Departments."

"The Congested Districts Board for Ireland is not in the ordinary sense a Government department, nor is it subordinate either to the Chief Secretary's Office, or the Ministry of the day. For certain purposes sufficiently specified by the statute the Land Commission must be consulted, and all applications to the Treasury for expenditure paid for out of its Vote must pass through the Castle. With this exception, all correspondence, either with the Treasury or other Government department, may be conducted independently."

"It will probably, however, be advisable to keep the Chief Secretary, as Chairman of the Board, personally informed of all such transactions and correspondence as are of more than a merely formal character, though it is purely a matter for arrangement between the Chief Secretary and the Board as to convenience may from time to time dictate."

(Signed), A. J. R.
21st January, 1892

99. **SIR FRANCIS MOWATT**.—When is that memorandum?—Mr. Arthur Balfour. He was First Lord of the Treasury at the time.

100. **MR. REV. DR. O'DONNELL**.—That was adopted by the Board, was not it?—That was adopted by the Board. Mr. Balfour, the First Lord, attended to meeting with Mr. Jackson and made this statement, and that matter was never questioned after that.

101. Then you notice that the Chief Secretary is Chairman by the act of the Board and not by the act of Parliament?—Yes; and the minutes of the Board show that.

102. You are also aware that all the members of the Board sitting there have equal power?—Yes, with the exception of the temporary members. I doubt if they have.

103. The acts of the Board are also final within their own sphere, they are not subject to review at the Castle?—No; but the Treasury are entitled to have an estimate submitted to them.

104. **MR. SOUTHERLAND**.—The Chief Secretary answers for them in Parliament?—Not as Chief Secretary, but as a member of the Board. There is no responsibility in the ordinary sense.

105. Have you separate estimates in the House of Commons?—No; there was an estimate, an estimate for salaries, but that has ceased. The salaries are now paid under the vote of £35,000, which is laid by Act of Parliament.

106. Are the Commissioners appointed by Royal Warrant?—They are.

107. **MR. REV. DR. O'DONNELL**.—Apart from the way the Commissioners are appointed and any point that might arise on that score, do you consider that the independence of the Board, such as it has been constituted, is an important factor or has been an important factor in its success?—I think it is an essential factor, and I think a body of Irishmen being empowered "to take such steps as they think proper"—that is the wording of the Act—without any interference from outside people who are not fully acquainted with the situations to be dealt with, is the ideal method of administration for such a Department.

108. **SIR ANTOINET MACDONNELL**.—Don't you think that the efficiency of the Board has been very greatly

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aid by the connection of the Board through the Chief Secretary and Under-Secretary with the Government of Ireland—I cannot say that I do, Sir Antony, but I think it is most useful to have the Chief Secretary, the Under-Secretary, and the members of the Board associated together.

108. In your time were you aware of any matters, or did any matters come to your knowledge, which would have been delayed and perhaps hampered had it not been for the benevolent action of the Chief Secretary and Under-Secretary as members of the Board?—No. Any delay and trouble, I think, were caused by the Board's not having an absolutely free hand.

109. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—At the same time, Mr. Miles, it is an important thing to have a minister of such power as the Chief Secretary a member of the Board, who can be useful in presenting legislation such as the Board requires?—Certainly.

110. And also in something the machinery of administration?—Yes; but usually the Congested Districts Board comes outside the administration except as regards the Treasury estimate.

111. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—And in applying to the Treasury for additional assistance or grants of money, do you think that you have ever been assisted there by the Irish Government of the day?—Well, we have been, but the result was never valuable.

112. Your income to-day is the same as when you started?—Well, there is not very much difference. I can go into that and explain what I mean.

113. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Is that memorandum an extract from the Minute Book of the Congested Districts Board?—It is on the minutes.

114. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—When did your connection with the Board cease?—In May, 1893.

115. Up to 1896 the powers of the Board were restricted, were they not, compared with what they have since become?—For land purchase they were restricted up to the time I left.

116. And their financial powers were of a limited character compared with what they are now?—Very small.

117. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You remember the original Congested Districts Board was a Commission to promote the relief of congestion through migration, and the powers of the Board to acquire ownership of land were exceedingly doubtful?—Yes; they had to get an amending Act of Parliament.

118. During all your time had the Congested Districts Board a struggle to discharge its duties under the difficulty of hampering legislation?—Under difficulty as regards legislation, and under the difficulty of satisfying the requirements of the Land Commission.

119. And until you left, or at least until 1896, had the Congested Districts Board any funds out of which to buy estates except its own income, £41,250?—No; they had only that and the power of mortgaging the million and a half that produced that £41,250.

120. I believe when land stock was advanced to the Board for purchase of estates, you recollect that the Congested Districts Board might not sell to the small owner or anyone whose valuation was under £100?—Yes; that virtually excluded purchase.

121. Do you recollect that we had not only to pay interest on advances to sell to tenants but also a sinking fund?—Yes, but the repayments from the purchasers did not begin for two years after the advances were made, so that the Board had to be out of pocket as to the repayment of the money, for two years, and that stopped all procedure, and that had to be amended.

122. In other words that the state of legislation, so far as the Board was concerned, very much paralysed the efforts of the Board?—Oh, yes; they could do nothing as regards purchase of land. They did not begin to do anything until after 1896.

123. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Would not this be a correct definition or description of the whole thing, that in the beginning, in 1891, you entered in a perfectly untrodden track; you did not know what you were to do, or how you were to do it, and you acted tentatively; and then gradually, as you groped and felt your way, your ideas widened, your methods improved, the means placed at your disposal were increased until under the Act of 1905 you purchased, in two years, more land than you did in all the preceding years of the Board's administration?—That was

after I left the Board, but I think it is an absolutely correct description as regards land purchase.

124. And the question now is ought you not to have greater powers, and fuller powers, and wider powers, and more money?—Yes.

125. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Was it lack of money alone that prevented you from buying land earlier?—Yes; the Board also passed a resolution that they could not hope to get land for their purposes unless they had compulsory powers.

126. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—In the commencement was not it the fact that the Board was appointed, not for the purpose of buying land at all?—Yes.

127. And as it was not also the fact that the Board, under the direction of the law officers, applied for power to go into the Land Court and buy estates?—Yes.

128. And it was given to them?—Yes.

129. Can you mention any instance in which the Board, finding that larger powers were necessary, and applying through the Government, for larger powers, were not strongly backed up by the Irish Government, and did not in the end get the powers which they wanted?—I don't think they have as much power as they want even still.

130. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You are rather inclined to think that there are some things still necessary for them to carry on the work of the Congested Districts Board and not given up to the present?—Yes.

131. And are you not aware that the number of Acts passed in the course of the history of the Congested Districts Board to enable it to discharge its functions is very large?—Very large.

132. The Act of 1896, another in 1899, and another in 1901?—Two in 1901, and one in 1903.

133. And a great many powers were conferred on the Board that they had lacked during their previous existence?—I am not very familiar with those Acts.

134. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It has been a history of gradual progress. New wants sprang up, and endeavours were made from time to time to meet them?—Yes.

135. Mr. BRUCE.—May I ask with reference to what Sir Anthony MacDonnell states whether the Board has ever made application for additional powers, which were not granted?—You say additional powers are now wanted. Did they ever make application for additional powers, which were refused by the Government; did the Government refuse to help them?—The Government differed from the Board, and they didn't get the powers they asked for.

136. You asked for compulsory powers and did not get them, and even other powers?—Yes.

137. The CHAIRMAN.—Who was Chief Secretary at the time when the Board first made application for compulsory powers?—Mr. Gerald Balfour.*

138. Has any formal demand been made of the state since?—I do not think so.

139. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In connection with this evidence of yours, in which you state that we were unsuccessful in our application for powers of compulsory purchase, it would be true to say that the Chief Secretary was not always able to secure that legislation which he desired for the Congested Districts Board?—That undoubtedly is so. I have seen letters stating that owing to the state of business or one thing or another it would be utterly impossible.

140. The CHAIRMAN.—Other departments and organisations must have suffered from a similar grievance before?—Yes.

141. It is not special to the Congested Districts Board?—No.

142. You stated that the Board had been struggling under difficulties of legislation, and also under the difficulty of satisfying the Land Commission. Are those points on which you got additional advantages or did you mean the matter to which Dr. O'Donnell has just referred?—Yes.

143. These are the matters you had in your mind?—Yes; and then the decision of the Land Commission that the Board was not a landlord within the meaning of the Act, threw us out altogether in that way.

144. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You made a statement which surprised me. You have stated that the income of the Board was practically the same?—Well, when you come really to think of all that has to be done, it is nothing adequate.

145. That was not the question I asked. The question I asked was whether it had increased from

* My reply to question No. 137 was made offhand with imperfect recollection of what had occurred. Mr. John Morley was Chief Secretary at the time, but he was not present at the Meeting of the Board when the resolution was passed. Mr. Gerald Balfour was Chief Secretary when the next (Fourth) Annual Report of the Board's proceedings was signed, but he (not assisting to the terms of the resolution) refused his colleagues on the Board to vary the terms of their report, as drafted, so as to record merely the fact that some resolution had been passed.—*Ir. F. Mideo*, 23rd November, 1906.

† See footnote, p. 55 and questions 1437-40, 1449-51 and 3357-64.

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the beginning, and I think you told me it had not—I did not intend to say that.

145. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you say that the object of the Board was not to deal with land originally?—It was not to purchase.

147. What was to happen to the occupiers?—Migration and amalgamation of holdings.

148. Because you observe section 37 deals mostly with land?—Well, they were given the powers.

149. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Was not it to deal with the holdings of tenants under ordinary landlords—with nothing but the holdings of tenants?—The section enabled them to deal with holdings and not estates.

150. Are not the purchases of land from the original landlords, still in the hands of landlords?—Yes.

151. And the result was that it failed altogether?—Yes, failed altogether.

152. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Did not the Board find that no real progress could be made without sale to tenant-purchasers?—They found that they could not work that section at all. I remember about half a dozen cases in the first year or so being brought in.

153. The CHAIRMAN.—Before we pass to the next thing will you amplify your statement about the matter of income?—At first the sum of £41,250 was given, and in addition the Treasury, under the Act, were to pay the salaries and administrative expenses of the officials. Under the Act of 1891 the salaries and remuneration of the officers were to be fixed by the Treasury and paid out of the moneys provided by Parliament. That, before long, led to a difference of opinion between the Treasury and the Board. The Board applied to the Treasury for funds to fix the salaries of the officials, and salaries to the amount of over £4,000 a year, as well as I remember, were suggested to the Treasury. The Treasury declined to pay those salaries and took up the position that they would not pay the salaries of outdoor officers, and after very long controversy the Treasury ultimately said, "Well, we will give you £1,000 a year towards your salaries other than those we already pay," and the Board, under protest, accepted that. The Board at the time got a legal opinion from an Irish barrister, who is now a Judge, to the effect that the Board had a legal right to be paid the salaries of those officers they sought to have fixed and paid by the Treasury, and that legal opinion was furnished to the Treasury, but the Treasury declined to vary their decision, and they would do nothing more than give the £1,000 a year. If the Treasury had paid the salaries and the administrative expenses as the Board were legally advised they were entitled to have paid, the additional sum would have been very much more per year. I think it was £20,000 a year that the Treasury used to pay for salaries and administrative expenses.

154. £9,000 for salaries?—I am not quite sure what the precise figure was, but whatever it was it would have been very much more if the view of the Board's legal adviser was correct.

155. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—We shall have that sum from the Secretary?—Oh, yes, you will have that sum, but instead of the additional sum claimed the Board get £1,000 and ultimately a sum of £25,000 a year in lieu of all salaries and administrative expenses, subject to such conditions as the Treasury might require.

156. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—For salaries alone?—No, it was for salaries and other purposes.

157. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It covered the salaries I believe?—It included the salaries. There are particulars in the Ninth Report of the Congested Districts Board. The statement appears about that £25,000. The Treasury made three conditions, and the conditions the Treasury made are stated there.—"1. The grant is to be applied to the following purposes only: (a) administration, including superintendence and inspection; (b) the improvement and resettlement of estates purchased by the Board for resale to tenants; (c) technical instruction in relation to rural industries. 2. Towards any sum assigned by the Treasury for any of the above purposes the Congested Districts Board is to contribute from its other resources a sum equal to half the sum so assigned. 3. The expenditure of the Board on works (that is on engineering works) is to be reduced as rapidly as possible, so that in 1894-05 and in subsequent years it shall not exceed £5,000 in any one year."

158. The figures indicate this, do they not, that the Parliamentary grant of 1894-05 was £1,000?—As regards this particular case.

159. And as regards 1895-06 it is £95,000?—I did not mention one particular item, £30,000 from the Development Grant. That is included in what you mean?

160. Yes?—Then the Treasury further made a grant of £20,000, payable by half-yearly instalments of £10,000, out of the Ireland Development Grant. That was in 1903. So that the Board's income now is £41,250 out of the Church Surplus, £25,000 under the Act of Parliament of 1892, and £30,000 under the Development Grant Act of 1903. That is, roughly speaking, £96,000.

161. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—£56,000?—Yes.

162. The CHAIRMAN.—£41,250 out of the Church Surplus?—Yes.

163. £25,000 from the Development Grant?—Yes; and £30,000 under the Congested Districts Board Act of 1894.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—£30,000 in 1893 from the Ireland Development Grant, and £25,000 in 1899 from the Treasury. But what I wanted to call Mr. Michel's attention to is, that the Annual Grant has grown from £41,250 in 1891 to £45,250 in 1905-6.

164. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would you consider that Equivalent Grant money assigned to the Congested Districts Board as having anything of the character of the usual vote or as Irish money?—I was going to mention that it is out of the Equivalent Grant.

165. How much is the Parliamentary Vote at present?—The Parliamentary Vote I take it is the £25,000.

166. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—My sole object was to understand the position. I had gathered from you that you thought that the income of the Congested Districts Board had not increased since it started. I was a little startled at that, and I only wanted to call your attention to the point that however you arrive at that increase, it has, in point of fact, considerably increased?—I did not mean to say that increases had not been made, but what I meant to say was that in my opinion they are utterly inadequate for their purpose.

167. The CHAIRMAN.—Is there any other point under this head of your evidence that you wish to speak on?—Just one word as regards the income of the Board. If one looks at the 14th Report of the Congested Districts Board, pages 46, 47, there are accounts there given which would make a casual reader suppose that the Board had an income of £223,000 a year. That is due to the fact that large sums of money in respect of estates purchased and resold appear in the accounts.

168. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is not that clear from the first page of the Report?—Oh, yes.

169. It is not misleading. The report is perfectly clear. There is a fluctuating and a fixed income. The fixed income is what you have given, and the fluctuating income depends on the rent received from these estates?—I hardly call it a fluctuating income. A fluctuating income according to my view is fluctuating receipts, but this is an item which comes in on one side of the accounts and goes out on the other and instead of being a gain to the Board it may be a loss, so that these large sums given there do not mean a gain. According to my view the £26,000 a year should be the largest amount you could put down to the Board as income. Nothing else that appears in the accounts should be really counted but that £26,000.

170. I would not say that, because part of the income is made use of, for instance, for the improving of estates?—Part of the rents are.

171. And the permission given to us to repay loans with stock, amounting to the difference between face value and par?—That was during a few years. I say that was a gain, but never afterwards.

172. That would amount to £28,000—I did not know it was as much as that.

173. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The applications for the purchase of estates won't appear in the way you say?—What I meant was, that the insertion of this might give the casual reader a wrong idea.

174. The accounts for the purchase of estates won't now appear?—No. They appear in the accounts of the Estates Commissioners.

175. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—They might in certain instances, is not it so, Mr. Michel, in which you do not get an advance from the Estates Commissioners, but have to pay out of the Board's funds?—To that extent.

To that extent the payments do appear in the accounts, but they are small?—

* See on this point Memorandum "B" handed in by Mr. Mitchell, p. 241.

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176. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is the income in any circumstances greater than appears here?—Greater than the £30,000—I say that that is the income of the Board. The rest is money passing through the accounts.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I think you may take it from me that the only money the Congested Districts Board received from the land is the difference between the par and face value of the stock with which they paid their debts to the Land Commission.

177. The CHAIRMAN.—Have you anything to say with regard to the procedure?—With regard to the procedure of the Board, a memorandum was made at one of the first meetings of the Board as to what procedure should be adopted—I am reading from the Memorandum—"Memorandum as to procedure of the Congested Districts Board." It was written by Mr. Balfour, who was Chief Secretary at the time—5th December, 1891:—

"There was an important question of policy which I barely touched upon to the Board at its first meeting, but which nevertheless deserves their most careful consideration. In order that it may be fully understood I circulate this brief memorandum for their consideration before to-morrow's meeting:—

"We have already decided that the various matters with which we have to deal—Agriculture, Fisheries, Small Holdings, and the rest—should be referred to small committees of our members, and I do not doubt that this is the best way of elaborating practical schemes for applying the funds at our disposal to the furtherance of the several objects mentioned. But it is evident that the mere elaboration of such schemes, however excellent they may be, is not sufficient for our purpose. For example, the Agricultural Committee may determine on the best method of improving the breed of poultry or of establishing small model holdings in poorer districts. But, in order that these schemes may be put into effective operation, some preliminary survey of the needs of the various districts must be undertaken. Such a survey will not only have the advantage of giving us precise knowledge of the local problems with which we have to deal, but will also provide us with a base line by which to calculate the exact amount of progress we are making. If we start with only the vague general information possessed by most of us as to the condition of the West, we shall never be able to say with certainty whether the action of the Board has produced good work. In order to be able to state with any precision how much improvement has been effected by our endeavours, we must know with accuracy the point from which we started.

"I would suggest, therefore, that a careful survey be made of the whole region, from North to South, with which we have to deal. This region will fall, as everybody practically acquainted with it is aware, into a large number of natural divisions in each of which the condition of the population is, broadly speaking, similar. These divisions are not necessarily, or even probably, continuous with defined administrative areas, baronies, electoral divisions, and so forth. Nevertheless there should be no difficulty in roughly marking them out with sufficient accuracy for all practical purposes. When this preliminary delimitation has been made a minute examination into the existing condition of the inhabitants should be undertaken by which their means of livelihood, the quality of the soil, the amount of land (if any) now available for extension of holdings, the fishing accommodation in existence, the possibility of increasing it, the number of migratory labourers, and the character and extent of the local industries, and other relevant particulars should be carefully recorded. It is to be borne in mind that these areas differ profoundly from one another with regard to the particulars I have mentioned. In one, harbours neither exist nor can be made, with any prospect of success. In another, excellent harbours exist, but there are no boats, and there is no knowledge of fishing; in a third the people though very poor have a considerable amount of rough pasturage attached to their holdings, and not an inconsiderable amount of stock; in another nearly the whole available ground is used for tillage, and the amount of stock possessed is comparatively trivial. Innumerable other distinctions between one district and another, of great importance from our point of view, may be mentioned; but the above enumeration will suffice to explain the object I have in view.

"It would also be very desirable among the results of this survey to find a place for some account of the general character of the dwellings in which the people live, and (which is of still more importance) of the actual items of their annual receipt and expenditure. By this means and by this means alone we shall be able to form some trustworthy estimate of their material condition. When I was engaged in dealing with the distress last winter I was furnished, through the kindness of Mr. Micks—at that time Local Government Inspector in County Donegal with a most interesting "budget" of an average family in different parts of the county—the receipts in the shape of money earned in England or Scotland, or received as the price of stock, eggs, fish, &c., and the expenditure on the other side of the account in the shape of clothing, meal, tobacco, tea, rent, &c., &c. Nothing it seemed to me served to give so precise and lifelike an idea of actual every day existence of the population with whom we are concerned.

"If this general scheme or anything like it meets with the approval of the Board we might discuss at our meeting a practical method of carrying it into effect. In the meantime I shall be grateful to my colleagues to think over the question which I have ventured in these hasty notes to call to their attention.

(Initd.) A. J. R.

"5th November, 1891."

The result was that the Board decided to have the congested region divided into districts, the whole area divided into districts; and I think eighty-four districts, as far as I remember, were formed, and then the Board got from gentlemen who were acquainted with those districts and had previous experience of them answers to about forty-five queries, and full details about the particular matter that occurred of importance. Those reports were in the hands of the Board in about three years after it started. Some were furnished almost at once and others took a couple of years.

178. Mr. BRYCE.—Are they appendices to its reports?—No; they were never published, but I think a copy has been sent to you of those eighty-four reports. It is a large bound volume.

179. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Isn't it probable that a good deal of the information given in these reports would be obsolete now?—Really, not so much. There is no doubt about it great improvements have been made as regards the houses, which would make a great difference, but there is a great deal that is true even still, and over some of the worst districts in North-West Mayo and South-West Galway, the report fairly well applies still.

180. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And as giving a base line where these improvements have been made, the reports are interesting?—Very interesting.

181. You recollect the condition Teelin was in before the Board began operations?—Yes, very well. I was a Local Government Board Inspector before I was appointed Secretary of the Congested Districts Board, and at Teelin I had to take charge of relief works about 1890. In 1894, some years afterwards, Teelin was a prosperous village. I remember going down, and asking about the potato crop. "It is no matter," I was told. "If we see short of potatoes, we can get them from Sligo." They had money; the fishing had been so successful.

182. Did you yourself report on Teelin?—No; I reported on the Rosses.

183. My point as regards these reports is that where considerable improvement has been made by the Board it would be interesting to compare the present condition of things with the condition of things as it was disclosed by the reports. (To Witness).—You recollect the condition of the French estate when it was first approached by the Board?—No; I never visited the French estate; but I am familiar with a good deal of the Stranorlar Union, and I know the whole face of the country is changed.

184. I suppose you have reliable information that under the operations of the Board, the condition of the people on the French estate has been made a desirable one?—That is a public fact I have never heard challenged.

185. In each district as these I point to, were the land operations of the Board and the fisheries of the Board successful?—Yes; a great deal has been done. I think the improvement in the country that

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you will see in East Mayo is largely due to the operations of parish committees.

186. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Are you going to speak about that?—No; they were not much in operation when I was there.

187. The CHAIRMAN.—I do not think the question of the improvement in the localities has much to do with the question of the procedure adopted at the beginning by the Board. It may be leading to it!—The idea of getting these reports was very largely that the Board should begin their operations with the worst places, and I cannot say that I think that was done.

188. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Will you explain what the operation was. Was the operation to interfere where the congestion was greatest, and do something, if possible for the locality?—The operation was a two-fold one. One branch of it was to develop generally under live stock schemes and fishing schemes all the districts to which they could be applied generally. Then, when you came to any particular area, I do not say that I could explain the procedure of the Board. My own opinion was that in some districts in North-West Mayo and South-West Galway I would have made a very determined effort to grapple with the condition of affairs there, and improve the people.

189. And as to your definite views as to what might have been done?—Yes; I think fishing development would have made both these localities—North-West Mayo and South-West Galway from the mouth of Galway Bay to Spiddal—much better. I think a great deal might have been done by fishing. If course the industry would have had to be re-created. It did exist there, before the famine times.

190. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Would not that be a very slow process. Have you had any experience of establishing fisheries?—Yes. At Teelin, where I had charge of the operations until Mr. Dunthine arrived, we had the fishery prosperous. The results of the fishery are very quick.

191. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Look at the experience at Aran?—Yes; that is on a very large scale.

192. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You are aware that Aran has been greatly improved through the development of fishing?—Yes; it is not like the same place.

193. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—And the industry has been created there. They had no boats previously?—Yes; that is so; only coppers.

194. The CHAIRMAN.—And was not it the same thing in Burtonport?—Yes, as regards results.

195. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—The impression I got from what you said was, that the efforts of the Board had not been efficiently assiduous and pronounced to develop the fisheries?—No; I did not mean that. What I meant really was, that there are certain very poor places that in every district you, wherever the potato crop fails, are so well known that the Local Government Board can put their finger on certain areas and they can send their inspectors there, and they know that there and there only, will there be serious danger if the potato crop fails; that is to say, the potato is too much the support of the people.

196. I merely wanted to give you the opportunity of correcting what you conveyed to me!—What I might say is this—it is in the nature of criticism of course—I should have set down in these very poor districts and tried to have done more for them.

197. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That is, that you are under the impression that some one has to set down there—that there must be some local man who understands there?—There must be some man who makes himself acquainted with these places and has his eye perpetually fixed on them.

198. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The giving of the greatest attention to the poorest districts was the alternative you would have recommended to a more general treatment of the whole surface of the congested districts at the time you are speaking of—I did recommend it.

199. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Suppose it is found that ordinary means will not suffice to develop a fishing industry of Co. Galway, do you suggest that the Congested Districts Board should go out of its usual path and apply funds in a more than usual manner to create that industry there?—I do not think it is a question so much of funds as personal attention. I visited that place and stayed some time there with Mr. Dunthine, and we both came to the conclusion that fishery work could be started there with the existing boats.

200. Apart from the supervision altogether, having regard to its sad condition do you not think it would be desirable to apply portion of the Board's funds to the creation of a likely industry there?—I really feel that it would be sufficient to start with the fishery in addition to the industrial efforts that are being made under Mr. Walker's supervision.

201. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Would you say that the whole seaboard population was a fishing population?—It is not a fishing population there. It is a carrying population. They have been carrying turf and seaweed, but they used to fish there before the famine days.

202. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What caused the decline?—Well, I should say it was the utter breaking up of society at the time.

203. The CHAIRMAN.—Let me be quite sure that I follow your exact meaning as regards this point. You say that when the Board was first created the procedure adopted was to spend its funds generally over the whole of the congested area?—They adopted various schemes, capable of general application. There are two kinds of scheme. There are schemes that would be applied generally, such as cattle-breeding, poultry schemes, and fishing schemes, that would come in under the heading of general schemes. But then there are a number of very poor places, such as Nash Erris, where the people have to subsist on very little, and I personally feel that very exceptional efforts ought to be made there.

204. Is it fact that the Board ought to have centralized its efforts on one or two of these very poor places and devote its energies to improving their condition?—The answer to that is that if they did so there would be very little money to go round all.

205. Well, of course, in progress of time they would have finished these places, and then they could go to other places?—I think the Board were really carried along. The fact that I do wish to call attention to is this. Say in a year like the present, which is a bad year for the potato crop, these spots that I have referred to used to suffer because they had not much else to rely on. Now they have more to rely on owing to the industries among them than they had, and their cattle are undoubtedly very much improved.

206. You would not suggest that the Board ought to centralise now. You approve of spending money generally over the congested areas rather than devoting a very large proportion of their annual income to any particular district?—My personal inclination would still be to improve the people in these poor districts, and to raise them so that they would be on the same level as, say, the people in the adjoining district.

207. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Though their conditions are wholly different?—Their present conditions are different.

208. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You are not without hope that the people could be enabled to live at these places?—I am not without hope; I am full of hope.

209. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That is, you think that the efforts of the Board should be concentrated at the seaboard in reviving industry where there was any sort of it before, and in creating a fishing industry, and that the Board cannot do much from the agricultural point of view for these places?—No I do not say that. I speak of other places besides the seaboard.

210. I am speaking of the seaboard?—Yes, on the seaboard we can expect a great deal from the fisheries.

211. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And in respect of land a great deal can be done also?—Yes, in places like Erris.

212. The CHAIRMAN.—Don't you know the sort of land, say in Co. Galway, where nothing can be expected from it?—I am afraid it is very bad. I think anything west of Tully in the Spiddal district is very poor.

213. Can you imagine, that, no matter how productive the people may be, they could ever make much out of the land?—It would be useful to them.

214. Could they make a living of it?—They might make their home on it, and earn money from other sources also.

215. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What do you mean by other sources?—From fishing.

216. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—In other words the development of the fishing industry would appear to be a sine qua non, in order to ingrain the people in the district along Galway Bay. At least it seems so.

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most probable way of benefiting them?—Yes, and the same would apply from Ballycastle, along the coast of North Mayo to Belmullet.

217. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—But are there not large stretches of that coast where there is no inlet and so way you can develop the fishing. Do you realise that?—I realise that you have natural harbours along the whole of that North Mayo coast. You have at least four natural harbours along that coast.

218. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Have you found in your experience of the fishing industry that it is a steady thing that can be depended on, or has it varied?—It has great variations.

219. And that would, of course, depreciate its value?—In former years fishing would bring from £5 to £10 a year in a family. That would be in the northern districts, where the fishing has succeeded. That would be a fair estimate of their former earnings, but now it is a very bad season that they do not make a great deal more than that.

220. The CHAIRMAN.—In short anything more you would like to say with regard to that particular part of the procedure?

221. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Before you go away from that point I should like to ask you one question. You have looked to the fishing industry mainly for the support of the population, such as we find at Gormanna and Lettermore. Suppose you began to prevail much more largely in Ireland than it does now—that the grazing farms were broken up, and that in eastern Ireland tillage became much more general than it is now—would it not be a great advantage to have that labouring population there?—I have always felt a doubt whether they would go—

222. That is not my question. My question is this. If tillage largely prevailed throughout Ireland would it not be a great advantage in the tilling of the soil to have that large, strong population on the western seaboard ready to seek employment throughout Ireland?—Yes, if such a change were to take place.

223. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—Do you think that the men taken from that occupation would be competent to engage in agricultural pursuits in the eastern parts of Ireland. Is that your opinion?—Yes; they can dig and pick, and all that sort of thing very well there, so many of them have to do when they go to England.

224. The CHAIRMAN.—Well, Mr. Miske, you now, I think, have got to the fourth head of your evidence?—The fourth head was given in answer to some questions by Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.

225. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I think he has done the fifth, that was the general survey of the country,—the condition of the inhabitants of the congested districts with regard particularly to the general survey made by the Board's Inspectors?—A good thorough knowledge of my district in any country, I think, demands that careful and patient enquiry should be made on the spot by prolonged observations at different times of the year, and by prudent questions in all possible quarters and not in one or two solely. The condition of the inhabitants of the West of Ireland varies in very numerous ways. The occupier of the land who supports himself and his family altogether by potatoes and other crops which he grows, and the pig which pays the rent, is now very seldom to be met with. I am not personally aware that I ever did meet an Irish family with only such resources. Nearly all the districts in Ireland vary in circumstances and resources. Excluding from consideration the clergy, priests, doctor, and various officials, nearly every family in the rural districts of the West of Ireland has a farm or holding of land, and most families have also more or less important additional sources of earning or income—that is, relatively speaking, important. The general and almost universal standard of living as regards good clothing and food was deplorably low, though only in a few exceptional districts, and in a bad year, does it become in my opinion so low as to impair health seriously. Of course there is in every district a percentage of inevitable pauperism, resulting from bad or thriftless habits or abnormal conditions of sickness or calamity. However widespread starvation, or semi-starvation, is now rarely to be feared or faced in the West of Ireland; but

the low dead level of utter discomfort should, in my opinion, appeal no less strongly for permanent alleviation. In congested districts the principal resources of income are (1) wages earned in England and Scotland, (2) money sent home from relations abroad, (3) the sale of cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, poultry, butter, and eggs, (4) fishing, (5) making soap from seaweed, for the production of iodine, &c., (6) the sale of seaweed for manure, (7) the sale of turf, (8) needlework, such as shirt-making, embroidery, crochet, and dress linen work, lace-making, (9) spinning and weaving, (10) occasional employment as labourers on roads. The value of home-grown food consumed by the family living on the holding, varies, I should say, from £5 to £20 a year in different districts and in different circumstances—

226. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That is, materials grown, such as potatoes, rye, grain, and such like?—Yes; potatoes, rye, oats, and turnips.

227. What are the figures?—From £5 to £20 a year.

228. The CHAIRMAN.—Exclusive of what the family lives on?—Oh, no; inclusive.

229. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That amount does not come into the budgets we have been talking about?—It is at the bottom of the budgets. There is a sum showing the estimated value in each case of the home-grown food. The value of the home-grown food, undoubtedly might be raised in every district considerably. Over and above the cash earnings, the value of the home-grown food has to be considered. The Board, in their First Annual Report, made a statement which it will be enough for me to refer to—they go very much on the same lines as I have just mentioned. In hardly any district are the means of livelihood identical. Then the Report mentions the various sources of income. But even in the least necessitous of the congested districts, the style of living at present, from the outside point of view, is miserable. The diet is almost altogether vegetable, consisting of potatoes, flour, meal, and cabbage, with occasionally a piece of fat American bacon, boiled with the cabbage to give it a flavour. Now and then a few eggs and a little butter are consumed, and salt fish is eaten sparingly with the potatoes; that is the most usual variation of the ordinary vegetable diet. A great deal of tea is also used; but it is high-priced and is generally left too long in the teapot. The houses and their surroundings used to be tasteless and comfortable, but a great change has taken place in this respect.

230. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—What time do you speak about?—This note was made in 1891.

231. And the description you give applies to 1891?—Yes.

232. And you will give us later any statement modifying it or bringing it up-to-date?—I am sure you will have that evidence from Mr. Doran and other witnesses who will follow.

233. Then we are only to take your evidence as regards fifteen years ago?—Yes; but I should add that a great change has taken place in this respect. I know that, personally, because I have been over a great portion of the district. But the description given now, applied in 1891, and applies to a great many places still.

234. Of your own knowledge?—Yes. The cattle, horses, and fowl, too often shared the dwellings with the families; but the erection of outhouses is extending. A remarkable circumstance is that throughout large areas there are no resident curies, the landlords do not live there, and the chod man is the parish priest. Except him and the doctor there is rarely any resident who has received a good education. The influence of the priest is very great, on account of his office, his almost invariable practical sympathy with the people, and his educational pre-eminence, which naturally make him the advocate or mouthpiece of the parish for its needs and wishes. Strangers are naturally inclined to blame the people for their want of tidiness and cleanliness; but a relative standard of these homely virtues should be established in the case of people who are engaged in agriculture and other kinds of manual labour, in great poverty, with very discouraging surroundings, and with a very scanty supply of clothing. A great improvement is observable in regard to cleanliness and tidiness. In the same way one hears

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hasty and severe statements in regard to wages of industry. I know that as much is not done as ought to be; until recent years it was mainly the result of their being subject to arbitrary increases of rent, and it would not be unreasonable to suppose that the fear of such a result might have deterred many tenants from doing anything that might suggest an improvement in their condition. Such a habit of thought will not vanish immediately on the passing of an Act of Parliament, but my own experience is that great changes are taking place in this respect. I might now call your attention to the Budgets that have been referred to; and I will refer the members of the Commission to the Budgets included in the Appendix to the Report.

235. Mr. CONNOR O'KEEFE.—What is the Report?—The Appendix to the First Report of the Congested Districts Board, which gives sample budgets. The highest receipts in any of these budgets is about £45 a year, and that is unusually high.

236. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—In what district is that?—That was the Rosess district in County Donegal.

237. The CHAIRMAN.—How were those budgets framed?—They were framed by the Inspector, after making very careful inquiries. I made the Rosess budget myself.

238. Mr. BRYCE.—If you put the secretary or somebody else to make a note of the places to which the budgets refer it would be very interesting, because they deal with various places?—I will hand it in. In my copy the name of the district is written in but not printed.

239. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—These budgets, I understand, were made out in 1891?—For 1892 about.

240. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—May I ask what was the standard on which those budgets were based?—was it a comparison with Dublin?—I don't quite follow the meaning of your question.

241. I refer to the value of money in Dublin as compared with those places?—The entries are the actual cost.

242. But has not cash more bearing in the living of the people in those places than in a city like this?—You mean will a shilling go further.

243. Yes?—That is a question on which I should not like to offer an opinion.

244. Are people, say, with an income of £5 or £10 a year as poor as the people in Dublin with the same income?—No. Of course they have their house with free turf. In the congested districts they have many other advantages, free firing and a very cheap house. That is the great difficulty in Dublin with the very poor people.

245. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—They have to save the turf with their own labour?—Yes, but it only means their own labour which, unfortunately, is not very valuable.

246. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But they must not be so poor as these figures in your book represent?—They are desperately poor. That is all I can say.

247. Mr. BRYCE.—There is a deficit in almost every case—a cash deficit—and therefore the value of money does not matter?—In all these cases there is a deficit—that is really accidental. It is mentioned in a publication of the Board, but these budgets were made out by different men, and they were made without any attempt to reconcile or balance the two sides of the account.

248. How have you framed these budgets and fixed the deficit?—You find to the best of your ability what the average family spend, and put that down on the expense side, you find out the average receipts, and put that down on the receipts side. Unless you trim it they don't balance.

249. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That is all speculative—it is not on the basis of actual figures—it is all what your inspector thinks?—No. No, I made the Rosess budget myself, and I know it was not speculative.

250. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It was a close estimate.

251. The CHAIRMAN.—You made both columns, and yet you have got a deficit?—Yes. That is how it worked out.

252. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Suppose you enter into detail. Did you inquire how much was spent on meal and put it down, how much was spent on tea and clothes, and so on?—Yes.

253. Did you inquire into more cases than one?—Yes, I inquired into the cases of a great number of

families, and I calculated the results, and made from them what I considered a fair average budget.

254. But people living in the country have means of income which you cannot exactly put down?—If you throw your eye over them, I think you will find it difficult to suggest any other source of income.

255. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—My question was only meant for the purpose of comparison. I have not the slightest doubt but that the financial part of it is accurate. It is altogether a question of comparing?—It is a very carefully made out estimate.

256. I have no doubt of that, but I rather think it may not be a perfectly reliable method of making comparisons with incomes in towns and other places?—There is no comparison with towns.

257. What sort of population physically and morally are these?—What budget have you?

258. It is not merely with regard to their poverty—I am taking the general question. What sort of people are brought up in those places physically and morally?

259. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are they as poor?—I should say the Donegal men are sturdy, strong men. Some of the men are certainly physically poor in North Mayo, and there are a great many physically poor men in South Galway.

260. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—From their circumstances?—Yes; I should think if you fed them up they would be strong men.

261. As to ordinary crime then?—There is no such thing. Of course some of them might have a little hot temper.

262. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How do you take the family?—Five decimal something.

263. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You go down a stair?

264. Mr. BRYCE.—By the word "ordinary" you mean a family only well off, as the description given in some of them is a "poor" family?—I mean "ordinary" as to numbers and condition.

265. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Financial condition?—Yes.

266. Do they sell any of the produce of the holding?—They do. That is shown in the Rosess budget, selling straw off the holding; but they don't sell much.

267. But it is very well known that they sell kelp for instance. We understood that when we were in Galway?—Yes. Some of them make as much as £5 or £50, but that would be quite an exception.

268. The CHAIRMAN.—£45 or £50 a year?—Yes, they do.

269. Mr. KAVANAGH.—In some of the districts there is no help made at all?—Yes. Kelp is only over a relatively small area.

270. The CHAIRMAN.—What was the price of it?—This year it is about £3 10s. a ton, I think. Some years ago it was over £4.

271. £40 would be ten tons at £4. It takes a family a long time to make ten tons?—A very long time.

272. A fortnight a ton?—It takes a long time, but some families in the congested districts do make it to £40.

273. The expenditure you say was in cash. The expenditure is based on a cash estimate?—Yes.

274. When you asked them, for instance, what they spent on tea, and they said £5 in 4s., you put that down. You mean they spent that in cash, or was it in barter?—Yes. It did take the form of barter in some cases—barter for eggs.

275. And also credit in the shops?—Yes, both combined—barter and credit in the shops.

276. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You told us earlier that there was a great trade in turf in that part of the country?—Yes.

277. I don't find any sale of turf in this budget or in any of them?—Is that the Carragee budget?

278. No. This is the Rosess?—I am sure there is practically no turf sold in the Rosess.

279. Mr. BRYCE.—The only place would be in South Galway.

280. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—They sell turf all over the country where they can get it. Here at Swinford, I don't find any sale of turf here. The sale there is Glenties in Donegal. I don't see any sale of turf there?—I don't suppose there are many families in Glenties who do not save their own turf.

281. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And, on the other hand, you find universally in the congested districts

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the turbary, although there is sometimes a charge for the turf which is consumed?—There is often a "bark" rent.

202. The CHAIRMAN.—To whom is that paid?—To the landlord.

In cases where they bought?—Then the bogs are picked off as their own property.

203. Sir ANTONY MACDONNELL.—The main point is that the income in all cases is very small?—The income is very small.

204. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—Have you ever compared your figures on these budgets with those of Charles Booth in regard to people on the other side of the water?—Yes, and with Mr. Rowntree's.

205. And the mode by which you arrived at these estimated budgets—is it the same as that pursued by Mr. Charles Booth? Is there any uniformity between your method of calculation?—The system of inquiry I think is the same, but Mr. Charles Booth and Mr. Rowntree give individual cases instead of average figures. I don't know if they made any budgets as only as 1891.

206. The CHAIRMAN.—It is a little difficult, is it not, to get many people of the class you are referring to in these budgets to be very accurate?—It is, but I made very close inquiries at the shops and elsewhere. I was in that district for a couple of months that year, and I had known it before.

207. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And I suppose you saw every child and every man in the district?—I saw most people in the district.

208. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—In making inquiries in the shops were you allowed to see the shop books?—Yes. There was no difficulty, but what they told me was ample. The price of tea, for instance, was well known.

209. Yes, but as to quantities consumed, the amount of their custom in the shop?—Yes. I had clear evidence from examining the books. I had the books placed before me without any difficulty.

210. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In the west district the changes are not excessive. Are you aware there is a good deal of competition in that district amongst the shopkeepers?—Yes, there is a good deal of competition.

211. Are you aware that the people get credit in the shops?—Yes. Credit in the shops and barter with the tea men who travel about with their carts.

212. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Can you recollect what price they paid for tea at that time?—I think they paid a very high price, about 1s. 10d.

213. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—More I should say?—Yes, 2s., or 1s. 10d.

214. Two-and-sixpence was the average I should say for tea?—I know it was high.

215. They buy high-class tea?—Yes.

216. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—And they pay a high price for it?—They do.

217. Mr. O'KELLY.—Whether they get a high-class tea or not.

218. The CHAIRMAN.—You wish, I believe, to say something about some of the causes of the condition of the inhabitants of the congested districts?—

I think the chief cause is that most of the land in the occupation of the tenants in congested districts is poor land. There were a great many people in the North-West, people who were moved at the time of the plantation of Ulster to the use of James I. They were moved West onto the good lands, and they went to the old lands and the moors of the West. Then it was the same way in the case of the plantations by Cromwell. The people came from the west of Ireland to the poorer lands. The richer lands were put in the hands of settlers. That, I think, is the reason that such large numbers of people are living on those poor lands. They never would have voluntarily gone there; the lands are so very poor.

219. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And shall we take it that even under a new system they had not the advantage of joint ownership such as they possessed under the tribal system?—In Derry, Antrim, and Donegal, of course, they had the tribal system, but practically in West Donegal the land was unoccupied in most cases.

220. My question is, when moved to those poor districts, even in the poor districts, they were without the advantage of joint ownership, such as they previously possessed?—Yes. They were put under English tenure.

221. The CHAIRMAN.—You say the condition of the

people is particularly due to the fact that the land is bad land?—Yes.

222. The principal cause?—I would not say exactly. One cause?—Yes.

223. Do you think that condition could be improved if they had more land?—Certainly.

224. You don't think the land is so bad that its extension would not make very much difference to the fortunes of the family?—An extension would be good—a great deal of good land is not in occupation.

225. What part of Ireland have you in your mind?—Donegal, Mayo, and Galway.

226. Are not there many parts of Galway where there is no good land?—In particular places there is not. There are some few places.

227. Very few?—Very few.

228. If you take the case you were speaking of—South Concomers?—There is very little good land in South Concomers.

229. You could not really better their condition very much by means of land?—I really don't think you could in that particular district.

230. Is not it a fact that if you were to give them land in sufficient quantities, I mean bad land similar to what they have, a family might not be able to look after the whole of it, and yet they could hardly scrape a living from it?—I should not aim so much there at increasing holdings with the same quality of land.

231. Then what are you to do if there is not better land in the place?—I should else it out with fisheries, or industries.

232. It comes to this, then, that where the land is very bad, and you cannot improve their condition by giving them better land, you have to look to other resources?—Yes; other means of remedying their condition.

233. Sir ANTONY MACDONNELL.—Would it be right to infer that the grass lands are of better quality than the tillage lands?—Certainly, as a rule.

234. Did you prosecute any inquiries as to how that land becomes grass?—The best lands were in the original grants, I believe in the Plantation grants, but in addition to that a great deal of land was taken up in the time of the Famine by the landlords.

235. Because desolate?—Well, the tenants were evicted.

236. From whatever cause they left?—Then the lands undoubtedly became better handled by men with capital, and it has improved in quality. It may originally have been only the general quality of the district, but it looks better now.

237. As a rule that is true of grazing lands?—I believe so; they look better.

238. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would it be an explanation that cattle were likely to pay better than tillage and that the owners cleared the tenants in occupation of the land?—Yes. As soon as the Poor Law of 1838 was passed the landlord was made liable for the entire poor rate on holdings under 24 valuation and that gave him at once a direct financial motive for clearing off tenants from such holdings.

239. Sir ANTONY MACDONNELL.—Was not there a countervailing motive in that it gave the landlord a much larger influence from an electoral point of view?—That might have been an incentive, but I don't know that it was very powerful at the time.

240. An increase of voting power?—I am rather inclined to think that the freedom from taxation would be a stronger motive than the political power.

241. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would it be necessary at that time to secure his political power?—I think he was pretty sure of it without any special efforts.

242. Sir ANTONY MACDONNELL.—You probably have not considered these matters definitely with the view of giving these answers?—Well, they have been in my head. They do not take me by surprise—the questions.

243. Mr. BUTTERLAND.—Were those historical causes to which you have referred quite sufficient to account for the congestion without any other explanation?—I did not look on it as congestion so much as poverty.

244. Poverty?—They are quite sufficient to my mind to account in part for the poverty. I will give you other reasons.

245. Those are the large reasons?—There are others just as important.

246. In regard to the amelioration of the condition of those people, is not it necessary, in your opinion, if there is no good land in a certain district, to have

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recourse to migration as a cure for that?—Are not these large holdings in Ireland which can be broken up?—Yes, but I don't think you will get people to go.

327. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Do you think they are over-cumulating their original reluctance to move?—It may be, but I really don't know. To my own knowledge it seems very difficult to get people to move to the next parish. When I was down in the West lately, during the last few months, I was approached by people who objected to be removed some fifteen miles by the Congested Districts Board, and appealed to me most strongly to help them. They objected to be removed away from their married children. They spoke to me very forcibly, and if I were in their place myself I would probably take the same view.

328. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Could any authority be established in the country that might change that feeling? Suppose there were an Irish National authority dealing with these things?—I think the people would be more likely to listen to what they say.

329. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Then is it lack of confidence in the authorities?—No; I'd feel myself that I would not like to leave a place where I had daughters married.

330. Mr. O'KEEFE.—But if you were steeped in poverty and had a better prospect?—Well, one might have to go, but would rather not.

331. Is not it a fact that those, who first refused, are now anxious to go? Was not there a case in the Port Royal District?—My experience was there was a great reluctance to migrate.

332. But if a half dozen or a dozen families were migrated together; would not family relations be maintained to a large extent, and would not they be less reluctant to go?—Yes; if you did that they would be more ready to go.

333. Mr. ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—But look at the other side. Will the people amongst whom you want to migrate then receive them willingly?—The landlords don't like strangers. If there is grass land being brought in a district, and if people are moved in on it from a distance of fifteen or twenty miles, the residents in some cases will talk with great bitterness about the invasion by the strangers.

334. The CHAIRMAN.—That is if the grass land was too small; but if it were possible to get lands large enough to satisfy both claims?—Then the jealousy might not arise.

335. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Is not that due to the fact that they are migrated from places in which there is sufficient land already for them?—The place I have in my mind is a place where there is not enough land.

336. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Have you had occasion to make yourself acquainted with the facts of migration during the last six years?—Not officially.

337. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you quite see the important point put to you by the Chairman?—If there was as much land as would satisfy the local wants before the introduction of the new claimants, would that change the local feeling towards them?—Yes, I don't think there would be much objection.

338. Mr. KATAMANI.—If they saw themselves secure that would get over the prejudice?—It would, I believe. If people, as Mr. O'Keefe says, could be removed with their relations, it would not break up family ties, and there would be less reluctance to move.

339. The CHAIRMAN.—You say that you think the only conditions under which people would consent to go would be if you sent practically a whole family and their relatives?—That would simplify it very much. I would not like to say it would be the only reason, but it would make migration easier to do it.

340. Do you think that is a practical solution? Do you think it would be possible to move a little community like that bodily to some other place? Might not that mean that you would have to move people who were absolutely unqualified and incapable of carrying on a profitable existence under their new conditions? Do you think that the only possible way in which migration could be made safe, factory would be to select people of the better class, better men, and move them?—I have not really sufficient experience, because I was never concerned in working out in detail any migration scheme. I am speaking simply as an ordinary commonsense observer of what is going on in the West.

341. But, obviously, if you move the old mother and all the other relatives you would move perhaps a great many people who were singularly ill-adapted for moving?—Yes. That is an obvious objection. I think it might, however, be possible to move a number

of people who are related. They are all very much in the same way.

342. Sir JOHN COLSON.—With reference to the past were you attached to the Local Government Board or any other Department in the early eighties, or had you any opportunity of forming opinions on things from 1883 to 1887?—In 1883 I was Controller of the Arrears Act. I had the administration of the Arrears Act. Up to 1885 I was the Assistant-Secretary to the Land Commission.

343. Do you remember the public company that was floated in 1883 in connection with an estate?—Yes; the Bodinn estate.

344. Was it not stated by some of those concerned, not by Mr. Parnell, but by others, that there was a strong objection in that part of Ireland to anybody coming there from other parts of Ireland?—The break-down here was owing to the large grantors who held the lands of Keshigoony objecting to small tenants being brought in. They thought the land would be re-sold to themselves.

345. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Have you any acquaintance with what has been done with regard to migration in Scotland?—No, I have not.

346. Mr. BRYCE.—May I turn for a moment to the development question where it would have a particular application. Take the coast line of Claremore, where it is very congested, where the ground is all granite slabs. At its back immediately is the north there is an absolutely unimproved district, where the land is very much better, on slate; would there be the slightest use of thinking of putting people upon that, considering they have no agricultural experience on the granite slabs?—You think the land behind is better?

347. There is no doubt about it, because there is no land at all in the other place?—It is used now for grazing?

348. Yes?—I daresay if you brought home to them that if there was more profitable land above they might go for half the year, as is done elsewhere.

349. Why is it unimproved?—It is not unimproved. I am sure there is not an acre of land without a tenant.

350. There is no population living there?—Yes, but certain people have all the grazing rights. They rear young cattle on it.

351. The CHAIRMAN.—If removed to that land they would lose seaweed for their pasture and seaweed for kelp?—Yes. In a great many districts in the county—for instance in the Roscoe district—they have houses on the mountains and houses on the shore. They live part of the year on the shore and part of the year on the mountains. It is the same way in Achill. They have their summer and their winter houses.

352. Sir JOHN COLSON.—With regard to your opinion that you would not get the people to move unless you removed the whole district, is it not a fact that whole families went under the usual emigration scheme across the ocean in hundreds?—That is a fact.

353. How do you account for the position that in the one case whole families were quite willing to go and actually did go when assisted to the States and Canada, while people will not go to another part of their own country?—At the time of the so-called emigration they ran away to avoid starvation.

354. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Were they also encouraged by the success of others who had gone there?—I don't think they thought much of that. They wanted to get away from where they were.

355. Mr. O'KEEFE.—When they go out to America they go out to members of their own family. They meet old neighbours out there, and it is going to rejoin their friends?—Yes, that is the case.

356. But if you take them ten or fifteen miles away they go among people whom they never knew before, people with whom they never had any intercourse?—That is so.

357. The CHAIRMAN.—What is the next point?—I have not yet left number six. The nature of the land legislation was also a powerful cause why the people were in an impoverished condition. That of course has been pretty well set right.

358. How do you mean?—The law which enabled a landlord to turn out a man or put on him any rent that he chose. That was the law up to 1881.

359. Was it the lack of land legislation or the consequence of it?—It was the legal power of eviction that enabled the landlord to enforce his claim.

360. That was not a sudden thing like the Ulster

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glutination; was it in constant operation?—Yes, and grew by degrees.

301. And did the continuance add to the landlord's privileges?—Yes, continued adding to the privileges of the one class.

302. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do I understand that the power of eviction, and the exercise of that power, increased the number of tenants on the Galway Coast, of which we are now speaking?—No, but it increased the discomfort of their condition by obliging them to pay higher rents.

303. I see that; but I thought we were considering now the causes which led to this increase of population?—I started by saying that the word "congested" gave an erroneous idea of too many people being in the place.

304. The cause you have been assigning would not increase the number of people, but would decrease their means of subsistence?—It would make their position more uncomfortable. Then another cause was hostile legislation with regard to industries which operated in rural industries on the price of sheep and wool; and then free trade legislation which suited England and English manufacturers and artisans was ruinous to Irish farmers, and that was another cause that affected the farmers of Ireland—perhaps all farmers, but in the congested districts less than in others. Another cause of their condition is want of education. There is still a great lack of education among them. The number of illiterates is unduly large. They are not fit, in a great many places especially in Connemara, to take advantage of the improvements that are offered to them.

305. Mr. O'DONNELL.—What improvements?—The improvements introduced by the Congested Districts Board, for instance.

306. Why are they not able to avail of them?—Through want of education.

307. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Under education you include the habit of regular hours?—That is one of the chief advantages of education.

308. And one which is very necessary in industry?—Yes. Punctuality and regularity, I think, are most necessary, and are among the best results of education. And then contributing to injure their character and their want of go and capacity to raise themselves; no doubt penal and repressive legislation made them a less independent class of men than otherwise they would have been, and their exclusion from political power was, I think, another reason. Then one of the reasons why they are so badly off is, I think, that no steps were taken by the country at large, or by the Government of the country, to develop its resources. Until recent years the country has been allowed to go along in its own way, to do what individuals could do; but there has been, until recent years, no effort to develop the country as a whole. Over taxation is another matter that has been alluded to already. Those, I think, are some of the chief causes of the condition of the inhabitants of the congested districts.

309. The CHAIRMAN.—As it is some years since you ceased to be secretary to the Congested Districts Board, had you not better have some of the matters mentioned in the seventh head of your evidence to some of the officers at present with the Board, and tell us what improvements you saw in your time?—That was my idea.

310. You will. Of course we shall get the later developments afterwards. You will carry us up to the date of your retirement?—Yes; in a very short time. You will have evidence from a gentleman who has been working in connection with agricultural instruction development and the breeding of live stock all through, so that it is really unnecessary for me to say anything there except to express the belief that immense good has been done in improving the breed of live stock and poultry by the Congested Districts Board.

311. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is that of general application?—Throughout the congested districts.

312. Is that of general application regarding all sorts of live stock, because we hear complaints?—Well, take horses. That is a moot point. I have no knowledge of horses myself. I am no judge of horses.

313. You know the Rosses very well?—Yes.

314. I have just come from the neighbourhood and I have been assured that a very hardy race of Donagall ponies has been completely annihilated owing to the action of the Congested Districts Board?—I don't think that is quite accurate. I know that these ponies were very rare when I knew the place between 1888 and 1891, before the Board was created, and I know

it was very difficult to get one of these ponies in those years, between 1880 and 1891.

315. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—They introduced the hackney?—Yes.

316. Mr. KAVANAGH.—They have not been improved by that?—I don't know really.

317. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—We shall have that from the fountain head?—There was a Commission on that subject, and I was a witness before it. You can see all the evidence that was given there, but I think so far as horned cattle and Galway ponies go there has been an improvement. Very little can be done with sheep, sheep run on the mountains at large, and it has been found practically impossible to do much to improve the breed of sheep except at enormous expense.

318. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In your time as secretary of the Board was the agricultural work of the Board under the Board's control in the same way as the other departments of its work?—No. The Board at one of its first meetings passed a resolution on the subject. They had no staff. I think it was chiefly owing to its want of staff. And they asked Mr. Wrench by letter—he was a member of the Board—if he would be kind enough to take up the agricultural work of the Board with the staff that the Treasury had already sanctioned for agricultural work in the Land Commission. He, after making some inquiries in the proper quarter, assented to that, and said he would do so, and then the agricultural branch of the Congested Districts Board had their offices in Merren-street in the Land Commission offices, though working under the Congested Districts Board.

319. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Mr. Porter was working under Mr. Wrench?—He had been working under Mr. Wrench for some couple of years or so before the Congested Districts Board was formed. Then the Congested Districts Board took over that staff and worked with him.

320. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In those years some important demonstrations in spraying were conducted?—Yes.

321. Have you noticed lately in congested districts any demonstrations in spraying?—I have not noticed demonstrations, but I think the people are fairly well aware of the usefulness of spraying, but they find a difficulty in getting staff of the proper quality they say.

322. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The spraying did not begin for some years later?—It began before the Congested Districts Board was started. There was a little spraying. Then it was taken up by the Congested Districts Board. I think the first report of the Congested Districts Board contains something about spraying.

323. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Did it come under your observation as secretary of the Congested Districts Board that the encouragement given to spraying in congested districts did a great deal of good?—It did a great deal of good, but after a few years they got a little slack, and this year a great many people did not spray, and they are suffering for it.

324. You are aware that the question of spraying has passed from the operation of the Congested Districts Board?—It is with the Department of Agriculture now.

325. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes. It has gone to Sir Horace Plunkett's department.

326. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But they took over the Congested Districts Board agricultural staff, did not they?—I believe so. I don't know that there is anything else about agricultural instruction. The purchase and re-sale of land for the enlargement of holdings—that has been already gone into, and I have already stated as much as I know on the subject. The only matter I would say now is, the operations were under the charge from the very start of Mr. Doran, who had a very free hand from the Board in conducting operations, and he would report what he had done to the board meetings. He acted really as a kind of deputy-commissioner in carrying the operations through. As to sea fisheries. In the year 1891, when the Congested Districts Board began, I was sent by the Board to look after the starting of fishery arrangements in south Donegal. At Teelin, the place Dr. O'Donnell has mentioned, and two or three other places, curing stations were started, and the Board bought the fish. They bought salt and hired curns, who were engaged from the Shetland Islands, and as a result, the curing of white fish, that is cod and

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ling, became of considerable importance. Subsequently this fishery retired into the background as soon as the herring fishery was found out, but in the early years of the Board they made a good steady income out of the white fish. There is comparatively little curing done now. Owing to the light railways they are able to sell a great deal of the white fish, cod and ling, fresh to buyers who send it by rail from Killybegs. In the same way the cod and ling fishery has declined all along the coast, and so far as the cod trade exists it is no longer a cured trade as a rule.

337. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That is a sign of development?—That is a sign of development. Then as regards the herring fishery it was just being started at the time I left the Congested Districts Board, and I have seen it very often since, and it has become a tremendous success in a great many places, a really remarkable success. Before I left the Board the wages, even the lowest amount, divided by the Board among their own fishermen per man for a season of eleven weeks herring fishery, were £32 8s. 11d. The highest any man got was £38 15s. 7d., and the average comes to £30 15s. 4d. per man. That is as compared with the old times when the fishing brought in from £5 to £10 a family. There might be two in the same family.

338. But you lost on the whole £13,000?—I don't know how that comes in.

339. That is in Appendix 16, page 73, of last year's report?—That comes on me as a great surprise. I was always under the impression—

340. It is a statement showing expenditure and receipts in respect of fish-curing from the 31st of August, 1891, to the 31st of August, 1905?—I suppose that would be charging instruction and the boats?

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Yes, everything. You have detailed expenditure and detailed receipts, cost of building and works, and everything that equipped you to be fish-curers?

341. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—And fish-catchers?—Yes, and fish salmon.

342. It includes the loss upon boats, advances made upon boats and not recovered?—I expect that that figure will be capable of explanation.

343. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The total expenditure in all these years is £36,009 17s., and the total receipts are £35,034 16s. 6d., and the difference is £13,415 0s. 6d.

344. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That is in respect of fish-curing alone?—On the receipts side you will observe there is no entry for value of buildings. It is not a balance sheet. The cost of buildings is excluded. They come to over £5,000. Mr. Dutke could tell you that.

345. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I don't say it is too large a figure to pay if you have developed the fisheries, but still there is that difference?—Yes, but I should be surprised to hear that it bears the interpretation, that there is a loss of £13,000. I should think that there is money's worth unrealisable that will reduce it very much.

346. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It is a somewhat uncertain industry, and varies very much?—Yes. It varies very much.

347. Two years ago you had a very bad year?—Yes, but they are certain of getting something. There are very few years there is not something. That would be quite an exceptional thing. There is another matter. The Board have kept a steamer. I don't know whether that is included in the account or not.

348. The CHAIRMAN.—Perhaps we had better leave the fisheries until we get fresh evidence?—As regards the steamer it was always a question whether keeping up the steamer was unnecessary expenditure or not. Personally I did not think it was necessary.

349. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Don't you think there are many most important things that could not have been done if you had not kept up the steamer?—I don't know of any.

350. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Supervision?—Can be done from the land.

351. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—For instance, conveying cargoes from place to place, where you want boats, and have taught the people to build boats—cargoes of timber?—That could be done much more cheaply by ordinary trade methods.

352. Sir JOHN COOMES.—It could be done much more cheaply by ordinary trade methods in the West of Ireland?—Yes, by employing the service of ordinary steamers where such service existed, and in other places by chartering them.

353. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—But don't you think the proper thing would be to deal with the expenditure on the whole. You cannot isolate particular items of expenditure, and consider them apart from the other work which the Board had to perform?—Of course I have thought it over carefully, but I don't see any great use that the *Granville* was. I think she was an unnecessary expense in many ways. I think there should be a test for making inspections quickly by members of the Board, and I think the chartering of a suitable boat could be done for a few hundred pounds for the month in which that inspection would be done.

354. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Could you say offhand what is the cost of the steamer; what represents a year's expenditure?—The initial cost was £11,000, and the yearly cost as somewhere from £2,500 to £3,000 a year, as well as I remember.

355. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The question has been considered regularly by the Board on a balance of pros and cons, and the steamer remains on at the present time?—Yes. Part of the duty the *Granville* does at present is the prevention of encroachment of trawlers within the prohibited limit. That I see is done by the Admiralty in England. I cut out a paragraph from page 4 of the *Irish Times* of the 14th of August this year. It is headed "Illegal Trawling at Lowestoft," and states that yesterday the skipper of the Belgian trawler, which was captured by His Majesty's ship *Squirrel*, on Saturday, was fined £5 for fishing within the three-mile limit. The bench said that these offences were becoming so frequent that in future the fines would be increased. That shows that the policing of the water is done to some extent by the Admiralty in England.

356. Sir JOHN COOMES.—It is done to a certain extent on the west coast of Ireland also?—I have never known of any cases.

357. You have never known of any ground on the west coast of Ireland for the purpose?—No.

358. You have never seen them?—I have travelled in them, but I never knew any case in which they acted for the purpose of checking trawlers. I think that service has been refused.

359. The CHAIRMAN.—Do trawlers fish along the west coast of Ireland?—Yes. It has increased tremendously.

360. Where do they come from?—They come from England chiefly.

361. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It is good work that the *Granville* does under the circumstances?—It is very good work, but should be done by the Admiralty.

362. If you were dealing with the Empire as a whole that work would be put to the credit of the *Granville*?—The *Granville* is doing good work in that respect.

363. I say in enforcement of my point that you should not isolate the work of the *Granville* from the entire work of the Board?—I have thought of various services which I know she does. I had the accounts to keep for many years. I know exactly what she does, but it was that knowledge that made me think the cost was too much for the service.

364. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You think it would be cheaper to hire?—Undoubtedly, to hire when necessary.

365. Sir JOHN COOMES.—Don't you think as a practical man, that in a case like this, where boats are built and people are encouraged to build boats, and the Congested Districts Board takes action to teach the people to fish, during the process of the earlier years, or all through, there must be actual supervision on the sea to ascertain how far the people are benefiting by the instruction and assistance given, and that could not be done without a steamer, could it?—I never heard of any of the inspectors wanting *Granville* for any such purpose.

366. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Mr. Green, who is a member of the Congested Districts Board, does?—I am speaking of the inspectors.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—He is practically our inspector.

The CHAIRMAN.—Does Mr. Green go to sea to supervise fishing operations?

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—He is constantly at sea, seeing how things are being done.

367. The CHAIRMAN.—Does he go in the *Granville* to see how the development of fisheries is going on?—Most of that should be done on shore. There is not much to be seen at sea. You see a fishing boat under sail; what can one ascertain in this way?

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They fish at night, and the inspectors do not go out at night. With reference to industries and technical instruction Mr. Walker will be able to give a full account of all that has been done, unless members of the Commission wish to ask me any questions. The Board have also attempted to improve traffic facilities. They on one or two occasions offered contributions, very modest contributions, towards the construction of railways, and they have subsidised a steamer service, which was most useful, and they have made a great many roads to unoccupied parts of the country, which give the people of the country access to markets.

418. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—These railways were never taken up!—They were not.

419. It was felt that the resources of the Board were too slender to be of substantial aid to the railways!—Yes, the income we had was utterly useless for that purpose.

420. Mr. BRYCE.—Have you any views on the general bearing of the cost of transit in Ireland?—Yes. I should like to see the railways bought by the State.

421. And the railways run at a loss until the traffic developed—is that what you mean?—Whether the railways were run at a loss, it would be a matter for the future.

422. You might effect certain economies by consolidating the management of the railways?—You would have tremendous economies.

The CHAIRMAN.—Surely that is a question for the Railway Commission.

423. Mr. BRYCE.—It is not a thing we can discuss, but I think it is an essential element of the question, and we cannot leave it out of consideration!—Cheap traffic and general traffic are most important.

424. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You would consider whether the railways in the County Donegal have been devised on a good plan or not; that their construction is of great importance to the county!—Of vast importance.

425. If you give a unified railway system throughout the country the advantages of extension, such as to three congested districts, would be much more felt!—Yes, and trade not now possible would be possible.

426. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Have you formed any idea about the necessity for a railway in north-west Mayo?—A railway to Belmullet is most desirable, but I should not fancy it would pay.

427. Mr. KAVANAGH.—It has been suggested?—Yes. It has been promised, I think.

428. There are two or three routes?—Yes. I don't want to express any preference for any route, but that was one of the railways in respect of which the Board did make an offer. They made an offer, as far as I remember, in the nature of guaranteeing something in the event of the railway being run at a loss—a yearly payment for so many years.

429. That was done by Mr. Balfour?—Long after.

430. Mr. O'KELLY.—What chance would there be of developing the fishing centres on the north coast if you had a continuation of the line from Killybegs to Belmullet?—That was always the line I had a sort of feeling for, but I think the other line was more payable.

431. Which of the three routes, in your view, would offer the best facilities?—I thought the extension from Killybegs to Ballyvaughan, Belleferry and Belmullet would go through a more populous country and serve a large number of people living in remote districts, and I thought that from Crossnacreegan would go through waste land. The Ballyvaughan route is the more favoured route, I believe.

432. The CHAIRMAN.—I don't think we have any right to discuss the particular localities in which railways are required?—Yes. I have no right to give an opinion on that.

433. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—But you have great experience in this matter, because you were a member of a Railway Commission?—I was, in Donegal.

434. The CHAIRMAN.—Yes, but the particular locality in which a railway is to be made is hardly within our ken. We can only deal with the general subject!—Under the head of miscellaneous methods I include work done by the parish committees, which already has a wonderful effect on the comfort of the inhabitants of the houses. They have improved the houses, taken the cattle out of them in a tremendous number of cases. I suppose statistics will

be given, but the whole face of the country has been changed in East Mayo by these operations under the parish committees.

435. Sir JOHN COTTELL.—These parish committees are doing a large part of the work of the sanitary authority?—They are doing work that the sanitary authority could never hope to get done. They come and say, "Here is £3 for you if you take the cattle out of your house and remove the dung heap at least a certain distance from the house and build a house for the cattle," £3 is given for work that would be worth perhaps fully £30.

436. They are doing a most useful and beneficent work, and doing work that the sanitary authorities, although they are receiving salaries from the rates, fail to do because it was not popular, and they could not get the people to move with them!—The sanitary authority could do it if they had the £3 to give.

437. Yes, but meantime the rates are paying the local sanitary authority to do this very thing!—To prohibit and make it impossible to have insanitary conditions continuing.

438. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—There are two methods by which the parish committees work. Are you aware of those methods?—There is one in Donegal, and one in the rest of the congested districts.

439. What is the difference?—I should rather let that stand over for somebody else. I don't remember the precise difference. I am rather hazy about the difference. I know more about the Mayo scheme. The Mayo scheme was working before I left. The Donegal scheme came on after I left. Another good thing the Board did was, it gave guarantee for opening telegraph offices.

440. Do you know how the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction regards the parish scheme?—I have never heard how it regards it, or at least I don't remember.

441. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is there any difficulty in getting committees?—No.

442. To do their work satisfactorily?—That of course, I cannot say, but the results are very striking, but whether there are any complaints against the system or not, I don't know.

443. But you have the advantage of calling in the co-operation of a great number of people who can act simultaneously all over the area?—Yes; you have that advantage. The next head I had was the relations of the Congested Districts Board with other departments. I have already said in answer to questions what I was going to say as to relations with the Irish Government. As regards the Treasury, I have mentioned already the question of the staff. The other question was how far the Treasury have power to intervene in the administration of the Board. Under the 40th Section of the Act of 1891, I think it was sub-section 5, it was necessary for the Congested Districts Board to furnish an estimate every year, and the Board were a good deal disturbed to know what that estimate should be, but the result of it was that the Treasury did not ask for the detailed information at all. They merely wanted information that a lump sum of so much, so many thousands pounds, should be spent on agriculture, so many thousands on fisheries, and so on, and there was no objection on the part of the Board to that, so that so far as the furnishing of that estimate went there was no difficulty at all. The Board, at the time I remember, rather feared that there would be a difficulty, as from the wording of the section they thought the Treasury would have required an estimate in a much more detailed form which, in their opinion, would have bound them and prevented their freedom of action.

444. The CHAIRMAN.—When the Board was first formed you had to render to the Treasury an estimate under the main heads?—Yes. This is not voted money.

445. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is not there some part of it voted?—Not the money referred to in the sub-section. It was their endowment.

446. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Do you find fault with that requirement of the Treasury?—I think it would be better if that sub-section were not there.

447. Not even the submission of the accounts allotted under each main head?—I think that is merely a matter of form, and I don't see the use of it, and if they wished to insist on details, as they might, under the sub-section, I think it might be the cause of creating a good deal of trouble.

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448. It is public money?—Yes, and it is audited by a public officer—the Comptroller and the Auditor-General.

449. And to secure business methods ought there not to be a budget of that character made out at the beginning of each year?—There ought undoubtedly.

450. The Treasury does not interfere in the details?—They don't interfere in any way practically.

451. So if the Treasury did not require this kind of estimate you would have to keep it yourself?—It would be a matter for the Board to prepare it themselves in a very different form, not in that form, but in a detailed form, just as they did when I was Secretary, when each department brought up its estimates in detail.

452. But the Board is not hampered in its working by the Treasury requirements as to its estimates?—It is not, but they might be if the sub-section were strictly adhered to.

453. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—But as a matter of fact that section as to our income from the Church Surplus has not created much difficulty?—None practically, owing to the liberal interpretation that the Treasury gave to this 6th sub-section. It was practically free at the disposal of the Board, and that is exactly what I think it ought to be, that it should be at their free disposal as it is. Then the other matter as the case in which the Treasury have put on restrictions, that is under the Act of 1890. My personal view is that there ought to be no restrictions.

454. Do you think that section also works in the direction which you desire, that of non-interference?—I think it would have been better if it had. That is Section 5 of the Act of 1890.

455. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—They require a certain amount of money to be spent on certain heads?—Yes, and they forbid more to be expended than a certain amount, under a specified head, which seems to me to be outside what would be reasonable.

456. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Although there was a restriction made, as a matter of fact they have not enforced it. It was made some years ago, and since then the Congested Districts Board have constantly exceeded their limit?—I would have far more respect for the Treasury if they had stuck to their prohibition when they made it.

457. But they recognised the peculiar difficulties of the case?—When it is practically abrogated. My point, as I stated in the beginning, was that I think the charter of the Board is that they may take such steps as they think proper, and when you have on the Board the men you have and the Chief Secretary and the Under-Secretary of the Irish Government, then I think you have ample security that business will be done properly, or if not done properly, it is possible to bring their commission to an end.

458. Mr. SUGGILL.—They are a mere executive body and must be responsible to the House of Commons for the amount?—That is exactly the view I don't hold. If they have to be responsible to the House of Commons at Westminster it is unfair to this country. It creates so many difficulties and so much friction when you try to run things through the Government of the country and through the Treasury that you cannot have effective work as the result.

459. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Your objection in fact is to government by Parliament?—No. It is more to government by the Treasury.

460. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—No. The Treasury has nothing to do with it.

461. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—As a matter of fact we got on very well. We have got on for the last fourteen years without ever knowing we were hampered by Parliament?—What I am looking forward to is a very great increase of the present powers and income of the Board. The relations with the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction I know nothing of officially, as the Department was not in existence when I was Secretary to the Board. The dealings with the Land Commission, so far as they came into it, were harmonious. They also had some little connection with the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and I think they still have. I have nothing very much to say on that.

462. You know the view is held by some people that the functions of the Board and of the Department of Agriculture overlap to a considerable extent, and certain persons argue—I don't mean you to infer that I do—that the time has come when the Board might cease to exist and its functions be transferred to the

Agricultural Department on the one hand and the Estates Commissioners on the other. That is a big question on which I would like to have your opinion?

—So far as the land business goes, I quite see it might be desirable if the means of the Board are not adequate to carry on the work, it might be desirable to have some scheme of having one department to do both, so far as land goes.

463. That is land purchase?—Yes.

464. And that is 18-20ths of the work of the Board?—In my opinion the work of the Board is rather the other 1-20th, which I would make bigger than the present 20-20ths.

465. Are we to understand that you think the work of land purchase, the making of improvements in holdings and so forth, and the re-sale of estates could be satisfactorily done by the Estates Commissioners?—I think it could if it had a different system for working land in congested districts. As far as I know the two Departments work on different lines.

466. Would there be an advantage as regards that part of the Congested Districts Board work through the amalgamation of the two Departments of the Board and the Estates Commissioners?—In amalgamation on terms there would be.

467. What would be the general character of the terms?—The Estates Commissioners, according to my view, cannot spend enough money on holdings that are held by really very poor people.

468. That is to say the congested provisions of the Land Purchase Act are ineffective. If the Estates Commissioners were endowed with all the functions of the Congested Districts Board as regards the congested counties what would you say?—I think if they got their staff so that there could be continuity; if they got funds to bear the loss that the Congested Districts Board are presumed to lose—I don't know whether they do lose it or not—but there is no doubt the Estates Commissioners are able to buy land and re-sell it very quickly, owing very largely to the fact that the tenants to whom they give the lands are men in a better position than ordinary tenants in the congested districts.

469. Then would there be any necessity, assuming there was such a transfer, to create a special section of the Estates Commissioners?—I should like to see it myself.

470. Am I to understand that given these changes you would be glad to see a transfer of work, or an absorption of the Congested Districts Board into the Estates Commissioners section of the Land Commission?—I would not say I would be glad to see it, unless the Congested Districts Board have reached the end of their credit, and unless it is necessary to do something, that might be a way out of it; but really the Congested Districts Board have done so marvellously well in land purchase matters that I should not like to say I would be glad to see such work taken from them.

471. It is a very important matter. The question is whether the work in regard to the future—adjudicating everything that has been said as regards their operations in the past—would be promoted and advanced by the transfer to the Estates Commissioners of the functions which the Congested Districts Board now exercise; it is the difference between a Board and an individual?—It is the difference between continuous and once-a-month administration.

472. It is the question of administration by a Board against administration by a Department. Have you thought that this question might be asked you and have you thought it over?—I have; but I found great difficulty in coming to an opinion. I have asked myself that question.

473. You are not prepared at all events to give a negative answer?—No. I am not.

474. The CHAIRMAN.—What advantage would you see in a transfer of that land?—My view is, it would not be altogether an advantage. What I think is, if the credit of the Congested Districts Board is exhausted, if they have no longer funds, or are not going to get funds to carry on land re-sale, then it seems to me a question whether they are going to get more money for a different re-organization of the Board, or whether the work should be given to the Estates Commissioners.

475. But is not the function of the Estates Commissioners quite different, so far as land purchase is concerned, from the function of the Congested Districts Board—is not the function of the Estates Commissioners to facilitate the quick transfer of land from landlord to tenant?—That is so.

475. Is not the chief function of the Congested Districts Board to purchase land and improve it before selling it to the tenant?—That is the practice.

477. Do you think it would be possible for the Estates Commissioners to devote the same care and minute consideration to the details and improvement of the estate as it is possible for the Congested Districts Board to do?—I have seen an estate which the Estates Commissioners have in hand, and it does show evidence of great care.

478. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—My object in asking the question is this:—In the papers now before us we find mention of the funds which the Congested Districts Board have to work upon in the future. The Treasury have stated that in their opinion the fund for land purchase by the Congested Districts Board should be limited to £140,000 a year; in other words, that the Congested Districts Board should not buy any property in a year than can be covered by £140,000. That being so, the solution of the problem of congestion in the West, with which the Congested Districts Board is supposed to deal, cannot be accomplished within half a century. In the meantime the land which the Congested Districts Board ought to buy will have gone; will have been bought up by, or may have been sold to, the Estates Commissioners. If the Congested Districts Board are limited to that sum of £140,000 a year, do you think it is desirable that the existence of the Congested Districts Board should be prolonged, or do you think that it ought to be merged in the Land Commission in order that the question of congestion may be dealt with in a rapid manner under the provisions of the Land Purchase Act?—Really, I don't think that congestion can be dealt with in a much more rapid way than it is dealt with by the Congested Districts Board, so far as the handling of lands goes.

479. At the present time. But it will cease to be and if the Board can only buy land to the extent of £140,000 a year. You may remember, for example, that since the Land Purchase Act was passed in November, 1903, the Congested Districts Board have bought £1,400,000 worth of land. If the Congested Districts Board were allowed to go on at that rate, I grant you that the question of congestion in the West would be more rapidly dealt with. But if the Congested Districts Board in the future can only spend £140,000 a year on purchase of land, is it desirable to prolong the existence of the Board for the purpose of dealing with only £140,000 worth of land in the year?—I think if the limit of £140,000 be the only obstacle it would be better to consider whether the limit could not be raised.

480. That is one way out of the question. But, assuming that is a limit which cannot be raised, what is your opinion as to what should be done?

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In answering that question please contemplate whether the Estates Commissioners, without money, can improve the congested districts. It does seem to be very much, as far as money is concerned, a matter of indifference whether public money is given to the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board. Do you think it is possible, by land operations on a large scale, to improve the condition of the congested districts without the expenditure of a large sum of money?—I have heard—I don't know whether I am accurately informed or not—that the idea is a very trifling thing, and that the men cover most of the improvements.

481. You may assume that 8 per cent. on the purchase of the estates is lost on the improvement, and that whether the operations are conducted by the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners some such losses must be entailed. If that is so, is it a point of any importance in your consideration whether the Congested Districts Board is refused any increase of its annual income? My point is this:—so far as the Treasury is concerned it would have to be the same thing whether the money is advanced to the Estates Commissioners for the improvement of the estates, or to the Congested Districts Board. If estates are improved the money has got to be advanced. There cannot be any point in refusing an increase to the funds of the Congested Districts Board and giving it to the Estates Commissioners for the same purpose, unless the Estates Commissioners are a much more efficient body to conduct these improvements?

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I don't think I can have made myself understood. There is no question of

money being placed as an advance at the disposal of the Congested Districts Board. The £140,000 is not to be advanced to the Congested Districts Board, but has to be paid away by the Land Commission for the purchase of land. If the Congested Districts Board were absorbed by the Estates Commissioners there would be no limitation of £140,000. The Estates Commissioners would then purchase lands to such extent as the funds at their disposal would permit, having regard to other demands on them.

483. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You may take it from me that the limitation at present in the amount of land which the Congested Districts Board can put through its hands arises from this limit of its own income. The Congested Districts Board is able to lose only about £21,000 a year upon the improvement of estates. If the Congested Districts Board had £50,000 for the improvement of estates, it could put far more land through its hands, and there would be no difficulty, as far as we can see, in getting the Estates Commissioners to advance the money for the purpose of the purchase of those estates. You may take it, therefore, that it is a question of money to be spent in the improvement of estates. With that before your mind, is there anything pointing to this, that on the one hand the improvement of the congested districts through land operations has to go on, and on the other hand that the operations of the Congested Districts Board must be limited?—I was rather taken by what I believe is the fact, that the Estates Commissioners pass the land very rapidly through their hands at very small expense.

484. Suppose we allow that the Estates Commissioners have been most successful in their operations on the whole, is not the class of their operations, as the Chairman has suggested, altogether different from the operations of the Congested Districts Board?—Not altogether; they have bought some congested estates too.

485. Have the Estates Commissioners themselves said that they have on any large scale gone in for the class of work done by the Congested Districts Board?—No; I am not aware that they have.

486. The only body in the country which buys estates on a large scale and improves them before re-selling them is the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

487. Has any reason arisen why it should be contemplated to take that work from a body which has been very successful within its income, and hand it over to another body which has done very little of that work up to the present?

488. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Of course it would not be handed over to that body under its present constitution. The proposal was—it was merely a proposal—that it should be handed over to that body so changed and adapted to the new requirements as to make it an efficient body for the purpose?

489. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you hold that as long as congestion exists in Ireland, and has to be relieved by such operations in land as the Congested Districts Board has conducted—do you hold it necessary either that the Board should continue, or that there should be some section or public department doing practically its work?—I think that is obvious.

490. With reference to the question that has arisen about the efficiency of the Board and its constitution with a view to making it still more effective, did it occur to you that the composition of the Board itself might be altered?—I think it would be most desirable, because I think that in the case of a Board that meets only one day in the month, besides the committee meetings, it might be a little bit awkward to expense the supervision and control over land sales and such like work. And I think it would be desirable to introduce some change that would put the administrative body, whatever it was, in a position of constant supervision; and I think it would be an advantage also to have representatives from the different congested districts counties on the Board.

491. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—In other words, to have it partially elective at all events, would be an advantage?—I think it would. I am in favour of having an elected element.

492. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you quite apprehend that whatever body is hereafter to do the work of the Congested Districts Board in improving estates, that body, before the estates are sold to the tenants, would be in for a large percentage of loss?—For something like from eight to ten per cent.?

493. Yes?—I think the Estates Commissioners can lose up to ten per cent.

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494. Out of what fund can they lose it?—
Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—They can lose it on the certificate of the Lord Lieutenant, who relaxes the rule of the Land Purchase Act that no loss can be incurred.

495. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is not that public money?—Yes.

496. Is not it as long as it is broad, if money is to be lost, by what body it should be lost?—Assuming the efficiency of the two bodies to be equal, that is so.

497. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is not it at present the fact that the Estates Commissioners are hampered seriously in dealing with congested districts estates which cannot be purchased except at a price agreed to by the landlord within the terms?—By agreement.

498. While, on the other hand, the Congested District Board can bargain and get estates at whatever price they can agree with the landlord for?—Yes. Prices have gone up enormously. They used to buy them cheaper in my time.

499. Mr. O'KEEFE.—How do you account for that?—I don't know. I suppose the value of the land.

500. How has the value of the land gone up?—The prices have gone up.

501. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Who gets the benefit of the ten per cent; because the Estates Commissioners won't sell it under its value to the tenant?—I should have thought the new tenant would have got the benefit.

502. The Estates Commissioners are bound to charge the tenant for all the improvements?—They give them grants.

503. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The tenants get the value. But how it is to be done is the question that will probably come before the courts in a very short time?—I understand it is contemplated that the tenant should get that.

504. Mr. KAVANAGH.—So you think you can, with a voluntary Board, carry out the work of the Congested Districts Board as well as by a Department?—I think the Congested Districts Board, as it stands, is very much better than a Department that is under supervision by the Government and the Treasury. I think that such control so delays and hampers things that it is impossible to get business done.

505. You think the practical work of the Congested Districts Board would be better done by a voluntary Board than by a Department?—Whether voluntary or not is another question.

506. As at present constituted we will say, then?—Yes. I think that the present constitution of the Board, its freedom from control, is a reason why it does as well as it is doing.

507. The CHAIRMAN.—If the Board is to be given enough power to carry on its operations in the way you would like to see them carried on, you would leave things as they are, but transfer the present powers of the Board as to land to the Estates Commissioners?—My view is very largely outside land. I am not as familiar with the land matters as I am with the others. My view is rather the creation of a Department which would take up the development of the country in industries and fisheries, giving it the exclusive power over those matters, leaving technical instruction where it is, and agricultural development where it is; founding or renewing a development body for Ireland, with adequate income and power to improve the condition of every locality in Ireland that needs improvement.

508. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—And transfer the land work of the Congested Districts Board to the Estates Commissioners?—I think that as regards the department I have in my mind, it would be far too much for it to take the land on the top of the other work of developing industries and fisheries.

509. Sir JOHN COOMES.—With your experience and knowledge of the country and the working of things as far as they have gone, do I understand that in your opinion the relief of economic pressure in congested districts is to be sought in developing industries rather than in the re-allocation and re-distribution of the land?—I would not say that at all. I think the settlement of land is the initial step. Sell the land to the tenant, and then have it drained and made as profitable as you can for him.

510. Then you consider the larger portion of money devoted to the relief of congestion should be turned to re-settlement of land; the greater portion of the funds

intended for the relief of congestion would be for the purpose of land purchase and land re-arrangement?—I have not any idea how much money would be necessary to finance a complete settlement of the land question.

511. Relatively, I mean, the expenditure and the money involved would be much greater in reference to land and the re-settlement and purchase of land than anything else?—I don't think I quite follow your question. The settlement of the land I look upon as necessary. As regards the relative cost of it I cannot make any estimate.

512. It was with reference to the question of the relations of the Department and the point initiated by Sir Antony MacDonnell, and then from what you said—I may have misunderstood you—I thought you were minimizing rather the question of the matter of land, the land element, and elevating rather other means of relieving congestion?—I am not minimizing it. I think it is an essential at the first stage to settle the land question, but, no matter how favorable the terms are on which you settle the land question in the West, there still will be a deficiency of money necessary for support. It won't settle the economic difficulty. And in my opinion there are a great many places in Ireland where the pinch of poverty is only very little less than in the congested districts, and in these places I should like to see an enlarged Congested Districts Board, with some representative element, to deal with an adequate grant that would develop the country thoroughly.

513. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—How many years has the Board existed?—Since 1881, under an experimental income, an income that is not fit to do anything, except to conduct, from my point of view, a few interesting experiments.

514. It was clearly the intention of Parliament to relieve congestion by the passing of this section of the Act of 1891?—Yes.

515. How many new holdings have you created? I think I am correct in stating it was 237. They have, up to the 31st of March, 1905, settled 237 migrants on new holdings?—These are matters outside my knowledge.

The CHAIRMAN.—We shall get these from other witnesses.

516. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—My point is this, the Board was created for the ostensible purpose of creating new holdings, and has only created 237 new holdings in all these years?—The Act was practically inoperative as regards the creation of new holdings.

517. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—These are new holdings at a distance?—Yes.

518. The original purpose of the Act was the enlargement of holdings?—Yes; the consolidation of holdings.

519. These holdings have been created under a development of the original intention?—Under a development.

520. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—How could there be an enlargement of these holdings existing at the time without migration?—By including unoccupied lands in the neighbourhood.

521. If the holding is unoccupied, then you must migrate the people to new places, and give them new holdings. That is the way congestion is relieved?—I don't think you would find it so, if you were practically at it.

522. I have been practically at it, and that is my experience?—Not in this country.

523. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—On the Dillon Estate, without the migration of the people there, the holdings have been largely increased by the division of the grass lands?—Yes.

524. That has been done elsewhere also?—Yes; that is the way it is worked. The very first estate taken was the French Estate. A large plot was set in the hands of a grazing tenant. He was bought out as well as the landlord. His holding was subdivided and passed on to those of other tenants, to all the other holdings.

525. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—There were 237 new holdings created, and this is at the rate of sixteen per year during the existence of the Board?—

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I don't think Mr. Sutherland quite appreciates the huge raised bet. We shall have all the details from the Chief Land Inspector. All that has been done since Mr. Micks left.

526. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Yes; but there is a principle involved here—the extension of the people on the

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land—if you simply enlarge small holdings to the extent of existing small holdings?—No; it is at the expense of existing large holdings.

527. I thought the usual condition was where you had a group of small holdings which you could not enlarge except at the expense of the neighbouring holdings?

MR. REV. DR. O'DONNELL.—That is one class of case, where there are numerous small holdings with large tracts of land accessible that could be divided, but there are other cases where small holdings are enlarged by the division of larger holdings at a distance.

528. Mr. BRYCE.—Where is the driving force in the Congested Districts Board? Does it lie with the members of the Board or with the permanent officials?—It is between them all. The members of the Board have frequently, in any time, brought up schemes or proposals. These were referred to the Inspectors, or one of them. The Inspector would make inquiries and report to the Board, who would consider in regard, and, if necessary, act upon it. That was the way in which generally schemes were taken up. There were three Inspectors for the Board—Mr. Doran, for the land; Mr. Duthie, for the fisheries; and Mr. Walker, for the industries—and these gentlemen going through the country would see opportunities and report to the Board, and those proposals would be considered and acted upon or not, as might be thought best. And then letters were sometimes written by the public and sometimes acted upon.

529. And that could be equally well done if the duties of the Congested Districts Board were transferred to the Estates Commission?—As regards land.

530. As regards anything. What I want to get at is why you think a voluntary Board is better than a Department?—It is not a voluntary Board I am thinking of; but a free Board, a Board that acts as it thinks proper without any interference.

531. Why should not the Estates Commissioners act as they think proper?—Because they have not got power. They are part of the Executive of the country.

532. Sir ASHLEY MACDONALD.—The hypothesis on which I put that suggestion before you was that they would have the power?—Yes.

MR. BRYCE.—In Scotland just the reverse process is going on. There has been a voluntary Congested Districts Board, and that is now being transformed. It has been unsatisfactory in Scotland. The circumstances may be different here; I have no doubt they are; but the fact undoubtedly has been that the members of the Congested Districts Board have been much better about the development of the country than has been the case in Scotland. There has been the greatest dissatisfaction in Scotland with the Congested Districts Board. The result has been that there has been a demand for legislation and the transfer of its powers to a paid Board.

533. MR. SUMMERS.—The principle of sale in Scotland stopped—that is the reason?—The members of the Congested Districts Board in Ireland are very keen on their work, and the people have great confidence in them, so far as I am aware; and then it is very well known that they are free to take action according to their own views. I do not think that is the case with any other Board I know of in the country. Personally, as regards the development of the work in which it is engaged I think it is hopeless to get schemes through a number of different departments where they may be criticised and must be finally approved of. I think it is not possible to get that done. That is my view, from a good deal of official experience. I always felt with the Congested Districts Board I had a very satisfactory body to deal with. They considered the matter, and they either did the work or they did not attempt it.

534. MR. BRYCE.—How many people attend on the average at the meetings of the Congested Districts Board?—The Board consists of ten members, and should say the usual attendance was seven or eight, and very often all the members.

535. But not necessarily the same people?—Yes; all the same people.

536. There were ten members, and eight would attend?—There were nearly always a couple of absentees who rarely came at all.

537. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Am I right in assuming that you have your opinions very much on this, that a voluntary Board is less under the influence of the pressure of party government than a Department?—I

do not so much object to that; but it can act with promptitude and without having its schemes chopped and changed, and it can make consistent schemes and work them.

538. MR. REV. DR. O'DONNELL.—Do you think there is anything in this, that, on the Congested Districts Board, Irishmen of some intelligence get a chance of helping their own people?—I think there is a good deal in that. I think that is the reason why the Board is so popular.

539. THE CHAIRMAN.—It has been pointed out that if the functions of the Congested Districts Board were to be handed over to the Estates Commissioners the latter body would also have to be invested with the powers now exercised by the Congested Districts Board—the power, for example, of lending money, and so forth. Do you not think it would be a serious and unworkable if two different systems of land purchase should be administered by the Estates Commissioners?—They do work on two systems at the present time. They have ordinary estates, and also congested estates on which they can loan ten per cent,* but they cannot loan to that degree in the ordinary case.

540. Are such estates numerous?—No, and I think they would not be at all on the same low level as the ordinary run of estates that the Congested Districts Board are dealing with.

541. Do you see no disadvantages in having two systems worked by one body? Is it not better so long as the Congested Districts Board maintains its satisfactory record, to keep these two systems distinct in the hands of two separate bodies?—You have three systems at present.

542. We will not consider the congested estates with which the Estates Commissioners have to deal. Practically there are only two systems—the transfer of land from landlords to tenants through the Estates Commissioners; and the system as exercised by the Congested Districts Board, namely, the purchase and improvement of estates. Do you see no advantage in not merging these two systems in one body?—I really do not like to offer an opinion on that. I see advantages, but I also see disadvantages. I think, other things being equal, it would be better to have all the land sales in the one department.

543. You don't think there would be any difficulty in working the two systems in one department?—If you transfer the whole staff of the Congested Districts Board, Mr. Doran has been practically working as a Commissioner. If the whole of the staff of the Congested Districts Board went over it might make a difference. But there might be friction between the two systems.

544. Do you think the man who is responsible for the carrying out of the work of improvement on these estates could have the same free hand if he was attached to the Estates Commissioners as he has at present?—I think he would have to take the opinion of his colleagues into consideration.

545. Considerations of Government policy would also come in?—Of course.

546. Therefore it is not better, so long as the work done is good, to allow him to have a free hand and leave him where he is?—Well, I do see the advantage of that.

547. Have you known any difficulty to arise from the Congested Districts Board meeting only once a month? Tell me some instance where they have been hampered in their work?—I could tell you an instance where I was personally called to account for doing work between the two Board days. I can tell you of plenty of instances which caused me a great deal of worry and trouble.

548. Do you mean to say that you had to take a decision upon your own responsibility?—Suppose the Board meets on the 10th of the month and the members of the Board go home on the 11th. I have to go on until the following 10th of the month, and, if the work is to be properly done, I must take action in business as important as that which was before the members of the Board when they were assembled. I had to take such action, and I was asked for an explanation, more than once, as to why I did so.

549. Would it not be possible to arrange that the Board should meet often than once a month, or could not the work be done by Committees?—Standing Committees—if they were elected and so empowered, and if the members attended, it could be done.

* A "congested estate" is an estate not less than half the area of which consists of holdings not exceeding 40 in rentable value, or of mountains or bog land, or not less than a quarter of the area of which is held in rubble or intermediate plots. See 1 Ed. VII., c. 37, sections 6, 9, and 44.

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560. Could it be done without elected members? Could you divide the Board and have Standing Committees?—I do not know how you could with the present members of the Board.

561. Will you tell me why you are in favour of elected members of the Board?—I think it would strengthen the Board.

562. Do you mean to say it would bring the Board into touch with the public feeling of the different localities?—I think there would be much more satisfaction.

563. Do you think it would have the effect of bringing in political considerations?—Yes; I think they might be elected on political lines. The politicians who have come on to the Board have never however shown any politics there.

564. Do you think they might if elected?—I would not be afraid of it personally.

565. You would not be afraid of it?—I would not.

566. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Even if they were elected members pledged to their constituents?—I don't think they would be asked for a pledge.

567. Sir ANTOINETTE MACDONNELL.—There is one question I should like to ask you. Assuming that the Board is created on the lines you suggest, do you approve of the present system by which members are appointed for an indefinite period, or would you think that there ought to be members holding office for a limited number of years, three or four, or whatever number of years may be arranged?—I think it could not do much harm to have a re-appointment or limit, because a number of the members would take the opportunity of seeking re-election.

568. I am not talking of re-election. If you were to have elections it would also be assumed you were to have re-election. But do you think it would be desirable to have members who should retire at the end of a certain period?—No; I would not like that system at all. If a man is nominated by the Government and his re-nomination depending upon whether he is giving satisfaction—

569. That is not the idea at all?—That is the way it would be regarded.

570. I don't think so. Do you think so?—I do.

571. If the members were nominated, say, for three years don't you think it would be advisable so as to bring in fresh blood?—No; I do not think it would. He would have just learned the nature of the business in three years, and if he were a good man I think it would be a hardship, if he had the confidence of the people, if it were not open to him to continue his services.

572. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Don't you think it would be nearly three years before a man could learn the work?—He would not know much about it, even in three years.

573. And then when he learned the work he would be going?—Yes. Of course a member living in a congested district would have the advantage of knowing a great deal of his own part of the country beforehand.

574. The Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Has any other plan occurred to you for carrying on the work of the Board during the interval when it only meets once a month?—Yes.

575. Would you be surprised to hear that frequently at meetings of the Board the difficulty is that we have no income for our schemes, no money?—That was beginning to be felt when I was there.

576. Is there any difficulty in calling a meeting of the Board sometimes within the month—more than once in the month?—No; we often did it.

577. Would it be that those difficulties were incidental to so many projects, and that you naturally, as an enterprising Secretary, took a bold course?—I think that was a reason.

578. And these little difficulties between the Board and the Secretary were only such as were incidental to the beginning of these schemes?—If I waited for the Board's direction these difficulties would not have arisen, but the work would have suffered.

579. Look at the problem of congestion as a whole and the relations into which officers of the Board are brought with the people. Would you be for handing over the work to anybody not as independent as the present Congested Districts Board is?—Certainly not—I mean independent of outside control. That, to my mind, is a great necessity to the Board.

580. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—With regard to your objection to the fact of the Board meeting monthly—I take

it as rather important in your mind—is it not the case that in all the great industrial business concerns, dealing with millions of money, are governed by a Board of Directors which is constantly in session?—Yes, but with a managing director.

581. Not always?—I don't know of any one not having a managing director.

582. They can do their business, and do it to the satisfaction of their shareholders, and in view of that why should the fact of the Congested Districts Board meeting only once a month be an objection?—You are referring to railway companies. The Chairman in that case is practically a permanent official and in continual attendance at the office, and in other places or businesses there is a managing director.

583. Mr. O'KEEFE.—By whom would you have the members of the Board elected?—I did not think over that, but they naturally would be elected, if they were to be elected, by the County Councils.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The County Councils do their work from month to month.

584. Mr. O'KEEFE.—From quarter to quarter?—They do their work from month to month, but there is a good deal done by the local officers, and they are not in any way restricted, so far as I know, in their discretion.

585. Mr. O'KEEFE.—And many of the County Councils administer as much money as the Congested Districts Board do?—Yes, a great many of them do, but there is not the same discretion in the expenditure. There is absolute discretion for a great deal of the money in the hands of the Congested Districts Board. As regards the County Councils a great deal of it is for contracts, salaries, and so forth, and that really does not afford much discretion.

586. Would the appointment of a person analogous to a managing director cover the difficulty in the case of the Congested Districts Board?—There was a suggestion of the kind at one time.

587. Sir ANTOINETTE MACDONNELL.—Did you propose he should be paid?—Yes.

588. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Is it not almost true to say that Mr. DORAN is in that position at the present moment?—He is practically managing director as regards the land.

589. And the land is nineteen-twentieths of the Board's work?—I should be very sorry if it were so, because when I was at the Board I was more concerned with the other branches of the work.

590. Would you think the objection to the Board having its meetings once a month would be got over by the appointment of a paid member of that Board?—I don't think that suggestion received approbation from any quarter, so far as I know. I did make the suggestion, but I don't think it was approved of by anybody.

591. Would you not think that the long experience of the Board in dealing with congestion specially qualified them for the work—they have experience that the Estates Commissioners have not?—Certainly. It would be a loss unless the staff went over, and even with the staff going over it would be a great loss. The work would suffer undoubtedly because the new members, who would be all-powerful, might put the thing on completely new lines.

592. I don't know whether you know that the Estates Commissioners have bought property in the Co. Mayo recently. Are you aware that they have taken a congested estate in that neighbourhood?—I have seen an estate in your county on which they had acted in that way.

593. You have seen the Harper estate near Bellefleur?—No; but I have seen another estate which seems to me to be wonderfully well done as far as I could judge from a casual inspection.

594. The CHAIRMAN.—Is there anything under the last head as to which you would like to say anything?—I do want to make just one remark, and that is to say that I think the resources of Ireland could not be developed fully by a body of persons who were responsible to Parliament, because there is no doubt about it, the trading and commercial jealousy of Great Britain would be aroused by any attempt to develop the industries of Ireland. This has taken place already with the industries that have been treated benevolently by the Department of Agriculture and Industries, and also by the Congested Districts Board.

595. Mr. BRYCE.—What was that?—Representations were made to the Government to put a stop to the improvements that were being made by the Department in Irish industries.

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585. From whom did these representations come?—They were from England. They were against assistance to jam-making in this country.

587. No attention was paid to that, I suppose?—It was stopped over here as an undertaking of the Department.

588. It was stopped even after the Board was in existence?—It was not the Board, but the Department that was concerned.

589. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you really mean to say that the Department have stopped the encouragement of jam-making in Ireland in consequence of representations from jam-makers in England?—You will have evidence from the Department. I put it forward as my opinion that that was what took place.

590. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Was there any other opinion on that point expressed?—Not to my knowledge.

591. Where did it happen?—It happened in the neighbourhood of Drogheda, in the Boyne Valley. Fruit culture was started there, and jam-making in connection with fruit, and representations were made to the Government. I cannot give you the precise year the representations were made; but the jam-makers of England objected to Government money being spent in Ireland to develop the jam industry.

592. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Can you give us an idea of the date?—I cannot; but you will get it from the Department.

593. The CHAIRMAN.—You have never heard of similar representations being made to the Congested Districts Board?—I have. I think there was something about Forford; but my recollection is not very clear about it; and there the work went on.

594. Mr. SOUTHERLAND.—Did the Congested Districts Board stop their operations after that?—It was the Department of Agriculture, Sir Horace Plunkett's Department. They stopped working the jam factory, and sold the machinery to private firms. With regard to the income of the Congested Districts Board, as I have already said, it is very small. For such a development as I would contemplate, more officials and income would be requisite; an income ten times as large would be necessary, I am sure.

595. The CHAIRMAN.—That would be a million a year?—I am sure it ought to be in the initial stage.

596. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Then you would have very many representations?—Yes, and a great deal of work done that I hope would result in relieving the poverty of the country. But without some effort on a large scale you will have the population going away, year after year, and the country getting poorer and poorer; unless some large measure of the kind is attempted nothing will come of the efforts now being made. A great deal will come out of the land purchase operations in certain districts, but that won't touch all districts.

[After giving his evidence on the 7th September, 1906, a letter was written on the same day by the wit-

ness, asking that the following statement be added to his evidence:—

"A new industry ought not, in my opinion, to be assisted by such a Department as I suspected if

"it competed to any substantial extent with any similar industry existing in Ireland."]

The Commission adjourned.

SECOND PUBLIC SITTING.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 1906,

AT 11.30 O'CLOCK A.M.

At 35, Dawson-street, Dublin.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUBERY, G.C.V.O. (Chairman); The Right Hon. Sir ANTONY MACDONNELL, G.C.S.I.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMER, K.C.M.G.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN RHYCE, Esq., M.P.; CONOR O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.

WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. F. W. D. MITCHELL PRESIDING.

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597. The CHAIRMAN.—You are the Secretary of the Congested Districts Board at the present time?—Yes, my lord; I was appointed in July, 1905.

598. You have read the reference to this Commission?—Yes.

599. You see that the first instruction to us is to enquire and report upon the Acts dealing with congestion in Ireland and the working of the Congested Districts Board. Will you state, in order to facilitate our enquiry, your views about the constitution of the Board and the present method of working?—I heard the evidence of Mr. Micks yesterday, and I think he informed the Commission very accurately of all the facts about the present constitution of the Board. I should like to refer to the suggestion made by Mr. Micks that there should be no hard limit to the area of the congested districts, and that it should be left to the discretion of the Board. It seems to me that one result of that would be to throw an immense amount of trouble on the Board, because there would be incessant applications from districts throughout Ireland asking for assistance and to be scheduled. This would be a great hindrance to the business of the Board. A large increase of the area would add to the cost of administration generally, and reduce the money available for the more distressed districts. As to the representation of counties on the Board, I think it would be well to mention one disadvantage; that it would probably lead to applications to have the funds of the Board divided among all the counties. Heretofore the Board have exercised discretion as to the amount of money they would spend in any district. On this point, I think I may quote a letter addressed to the then Under-Secretary (Sir John West Ridgeway) by Mr. Micks on the question of the exclusion of electoral districts from the schedule. His words are:—

"The exclusion of any electoral division from congested districts counties is not recommended, mainly because the Board can, if they think fit, abstain from putting the Act into operation in any district about which doubt exists as to whether the division may not with propriety be excluded from the Congested Districts County."

The Board have always exercised that discretion, and at the present moment I believe that Co. Leitrim, if the question of scheduling were being dealt with, would not be scheduled at all.

600. The CHAIRMAN.—I do not quite follow that point about exclusion. What is it to which you refer?—At that time the Board were asked to recommend whether any electoral divisions were to be added and whether any were to be excluded. I had better read the whole letter. It is from Mr. Micks to the Under-Secretary in 1891:—

"In pursuance of the terms of the provision contained in the Section 36 (2) of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1881, with reference to the expediency of varying the limits of the area to be dealt with under Part II. of the Act, the Congested Districts Board for Ireland have the honour to report

to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant that, as the result of careful local inquiries, it appears to them to be expedient that the 31 electoral divisions mentioned in the accompanying schedule (No. I.) should be added to the congested districts counties, formed in accordance with the provisions of Section 36 (1) of the Act, and in each case the ground should be stated upon which the Board consider that these divisions should be included in the several congested districts counties. Upon comparing the unreviewed and the revised census returns in the case of the nine electoral divisions entered in Schedule No. II. the valuation per head of the population was found to be below 35s., and these divisions accordingly belong to the congested districts counties. No action need, however, be now taken by His Excellency in these cases, as the divisions are found to be congested under the terms of the first sub-section of the 36th Section of the Act."

The difficulty arose because the thirty-one divisions referred to were not named on the list of congested divisions prepared by order of the Chief Secretary. The letter continues:—

"The exclusion of any electoral divisions from the congested districts counties is not recommended, mainly because the Board can, if they think fit, abstain from putting the Act into operation in any district about which doubt now exists as to whether the division may not with propriety be excluded from the congested districts county. In Schedule III. will be found a complete list, in which are mentioned the names of all those electoral divisions that are ascertained to be, upon the revised calculation, congested within the meaning of Section 36 (1) of the Act."

I produce the Standing Orders of the Board. If you wish I will read them, or hand them in as read.

601. I think they need not be read. Are these in force to-day?—Yes; they are at present in force. As to the question which has been raised of the meetings of the Board, I think it ought to be understood that there is no difficulty whatever in calling a special meeting of the Board, and it is constantly done. Whenever any important question arises between the Board meetings I—and I think Mr. Micks did the same—asked for authority to call a special meeting of the Board. As to other minor matters, not sufficiently urgent or important, I have authority under the Standing Orders to act, with the approval of one member of the Board. That is constantly done; so that matters arising between the Board meetings may be easily dealt with. Payments are made on the signature of the Assistant Secretary or myself and one member of the Board. I have, as Secretary, no authority to sanction any expenditure unless it has been covered by a minute of the Board. I have on one side the Audit Office and on the other the Board. The Audit Office passes nothing without the Board's authority, and I have to get the Board's authority when they meet. Practically I cannot say it is much inconvenient. If a matter is of

sufficient importance, I can ask for authority to call a special meeting of the Board.

602. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you get a good attendance at the special meetings?—Since the Board was formed at all, I believe, of 227 Board meetings has been held. The average attendance is 63. That is for Board meetings.

603. Ordinary monthly meetings?—There are eleven of these in the year. There is one month in which the outdoor staff of the Board and many of the indoor staff are on vacation, and there is no Board meeting that month. The total of 227 shows that there was a great number of special meetings. In addition to these, there are five committee meetings on the two days preceding the monthly Board meetings. The Board meeting takes one day and the Committee meetings take two days, so there will be twice as many days occupied by these Committee monthly meetings, at which the heavier part of the work of the Board is done. Hence probably the Board meetings are not more than one-third of the total number of meetings. Formerly, during the early years of the Board, business was carried on by specially nominated committees. Certain members were nominated for each class of business, for finance, for works, and so on, but for many years past everything has been done by Committee of the whole Board—all the members have been summoned for every Board meeting and committee meeting. The result has been that better business has been done and the Committee work carries more weight, and there has been a better attendance given. I have also to state that the Board has now for some years always had six minutes and the Committee minutes printed and circulated, not only for the purpose of record, but also for the information of those members who might not be present at the meeting. In connection with procedure, one other matter I should mention—

604. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are dealing with procedure now?—Yes.

605. The CHAIRMAN.—We have got on rather rapidly?—That is partly owing to the constitution of the Board having been dealt with by Mr. Mick.

606. On the subject of the constitution of the Board, are or two questions may now be conveniently put. How many members of the Board are there—ten?—Yes, ten.

607. How are they divided?—There are three temporary members—Mr. Arthur Ballfour, the Rev. Mr. Green, and the Rev. Denis O'Hare—and seven permanent members. The three gentlemen who are now temporary members are the same three who were originally appointed.*

608. What was the object in having temporary and permanent members?—I am not aware. In practice there is no object in it at all. Mr. Green was, of course, a public servant—Inspector of Fisheries. I don't know whether that was the reason in his case.

609. In practice it has worked out that temporary members have practically become permanent members?—Practically; the only difference is that, under the Act of 1891, it requires three permanent members to form a quorum of the Board.

610. Three permanent members of the Board?—Yes, in certain business there is a difference in the powers of the two kinds of members.

611. Have the temporary members the same power in voting as the permanent members?—Practically they have under the Standing Orders. Any two members, temporary and permanent, can form a quorum at a committee meeting.

612. The distinction between temporary and permanent members in relation to a quorum exists, then, only as regards Board meetings, not as regards Committee meetings?—That is so; and any act may be signed under the hands of any three members.

613. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is it to the effect that the three members may include temporary members?—Any set of the Board must have the signature of not less than three members of the Board.

614. The CHAIRMAN.—It seems a peculiar arrangement.—It is now altered. I don't know what was the original intention.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think that practically it is now honoured in the breach than in the observance.

615. The CHAIRMAN.—How long do the temporary members hold office?—For five years. The appointment is renewed by the Lord Lieutenant for five years.

616. They become eligible for reappointment for five years?—Yes.

617. Are all the members of the Board appointed by the Lord Lieutenant?—By Royal Warrant.

618. Are the temporary members also appointed by Royal Warrant or by the Lord Lieutenant?—I understand they are appointed, in fact, by the Government.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The temporary members of the Board hold office for such period as may be mentioned in the warrant appointing the said member.

Sir JOHN COLMAN.—Sub-section 2 of section 34 bears upon that.

619. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Have you thought over any possible improvement of the constitution of the Board?—Yes, certainly. There have been complaints at different times from certain counties that they were not represented. My own impression is that if members belonging to congested districts counties were specially selected it would be a good arrangement. These members might be appointed by the Crown; that is to say, permanently nominated.

620. Your object is that each congested districts county should be represented on the Board?—Yes.

621. At the present time let us see what counties are represented on the Board—Donegal, Mayo, and any other county?—No, sir.

622. If effect were given to your suggestion it would, necessarily, largely increase the number of the Board?—It would add six members.

623. Then the number of the Board would go up to sixteen members?—Yes.

624. Do you see no objection to a large board?—As vacancies occur, they would not be filled, where the late members were previously nominated without any connection with a particular county.

625. You would have the Board representative of the local interests, and not nominated on account of assumed personal fitness for the position?—I should still have them nominated on considerations of fitness. My own idea is that this would be much better than electing the members.

626. I am not going upon election just now. You would make local residence or attachment a condition precedent to appointment to the Board?—Yes.

627. That would add at least six members to the Board?—There would be eight members then representing the eight congested counties.

628. Then, as to the question of elections, would you have these further appointments made on account of personal fitness by a Department or Government, or allow the principle of election?—I would have them nominated as in the case of the present members.

629. Would you be disposed to consider the suggestion made yesterday, that it might be advantageous to have a sort of managing director, to have one of the members of the Board exercising powers as a Commissioner such as an Estates Commissioner exercises?—I don't think there is a sufficient necessity for that. Nearly every contingency is provided for. Whenever any difficulty about any urgent matter arises, there is always available a member of the Board in Dublin. The Under-Secretary is almost always at the Castle, and I can get his signature if necessary. If he is away there are two or three members generally in Dublin.

630. Then, so far as the ministerial work of the office is concerned, you do not find any difficulty. But there is the important work of inspection. We have been told that the officials have been so overwhelmed with the great increase of the work that they have not had time to do the former amount of inspection?—During the last few years the work has been so heavy that I have not been able to organise and take part in the visits of inspection. Before that I was frequently in attendance upon these visits.

631. Nor have any members of the Board made these visits of inspection?—They generally made inspections jointly, but during the last three years there have not been so many of these visits as there were formerly. Individual members frequently make inspections now.

632. Is that productive of much good?—Yes, sir. Of course, in the beginning, not all the members of the Board had practical or personal knowledge of the congested districts. I don't think it is so necessary for them to pay these visits now.

633. Would it not be desirable and advantageous, for the checking of the work of the staff, to make inspections from time to time to see how the orders of the Board were being carried out?—It would be as well for the further information of the Board to see everything that is going on, but the estates business, which

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* The Rev. Denis O'Hare was appointed in 1895 as the reorganiser of Lieutenant-Colonel Pasco's, R.E., who was one of the original temporary members.—Secretary

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is the most important, is thoroughly technical, and is in such a capable and trusted officer's hands that the Board could hardly do any more than inspect the estates for their own information.

634. You think it would bring no information to the Board on the way their orders were being carried out?—It would be some advantage in that way. But you may also bear in mind that a party of members of the Board going on these inspection trips incurred considerable expense, and, again, it naturally raised hopes in the minds of the local people when they saw a party of the Board and officials, and they concluded that as so much attention had been drawn to their application and circumstances their application would be almost certainly acceded to.

635. In the absence of inspection, the Board are altogether in the hands of their officers for the execution of the orders they give. The Board happened to be splendidly served, but if it had been otherwise, there might have been disadvantages in not seeing for themselves what had been done?—Whilst they have not carried out joint inspections lately, single members of the Board take a deep interest in the operations locally. Mr. Green inspects piers and works. Lord Shaftesbury, since he joined the Board, has frequently been on visits to Kerry. Other members of the Board frequently inspect what is being done in their districts. What has happened is that joint inspections, parties for inspection purposes, have not been as frequent as they were formerly.

636. Do you think that work of inspection ought to be resumed?—Yes. I think it should.

Mr. BRYCE.—Would the question whether this business should be in the hands of a permanent department such as the Estates Commissioners or of the existing Board come up under the question of the constitution of the Board?

The CHAIRMAN.—I should think it would. I don't see any other head.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Then, I would like to continue, if that be your ruling.

The CHAIRMAN.—Very well.

637. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Yesterday the question was raised with the view of discussion whether, in view of the necessity of despatch in the execution of the work committed to the Board, it would be desirable to transfer a portion of that work to the Estates Commissioners, and at the same time as to modify the powers of the Estates Commissioners as to fit them for dealing with it. What is your opinion, or have you formed any opinion on this point, Mr. Mitchell?—Yes, sir. I think that the original constitution of the Board as an independent body, representative of the interests of special districts in Ireland, was the best, and that the Board has in consequence been much more popular and, perhaps, more useful from being untrammelled by official regulations and by complete Treasury control as an ordinary public department is.

638. It is the question of the purchase of land—the question, in the first instance, of the purchase of land; in the second place, of the improvement of land when purchased; and, in the third place, of the resale of the land so improved to tenants. The first question is whether the purchase of land is completed with greater despatch and greater punctuality by the Estates Commissioners than by the Congested Districts Board?—On that point I have no exact information, although I have full information about, and perfect confidence in the manner in which the Board's work is done. I think the two cannot be compared unless the Commission carefully inquire into the work of the other Department.

639. On the respective merits of the existing systems of the Congested Districts Board and of the Estates Commissioners you are not prepared to express an opinion?—Well, I have my own opinion, sir, but I have not the facts which I can produce.

640. But your opinion is in favour of the existing state of things?—Yes; and in connection with the improvement of estates I think the Board have a great advantage in that they are not tied down to a particular sum which they may lose in dealing with any particular estate, whereas the Estates Commissioners are not only tied down, but have to consult the Treasury and get their consent.

641. Have you considered on that point that the loss of the Congested Districts Board upon the purchase and improvement of estates hitherto has been about seven per cent.?—Yes.

642. While, under the Act, the Estates Commissioners are allowed to lose ten per cent. in the case of con-

gested estates, so that as far as the limits is concerned there is practically nothing to choose?—No, except that it shows that the Board have done very well.

643. Then, in regard to the method of dealing with congested estates, the Congested Districts Board is far more free, I understand you to say, than the Estates Commissioners would be?—The Board are absolutely free, provided they have sufficient funds. They now ask for about £20,000 a year increase of their funds to keep pace, I may say, with the increased powers that have been given to them. The history of the Board shows that there has been a steady and very important progress made in the powers given to the Board by Parliament.

644. Yes.—And the income has not quite kept pace with the powers given.

645. Then in regard to the methods of dealing with congestion, we were told yesterday that, I think, owing to the provisions of the Land Purchase Act of 1903, the Estates Commissioners are seriously hampered while the Board can buy at the best price at which they can get the land?—The Board are perfectly free.

646. Yes. The Board, on the other hand, are perfectly free. Therefore as long as such restriction, a legal, statutory restriction, is imposed upon the action of the Estates Commissioners, it would—I presume you would say—it would be desirable that there should be no change?—Certainly.

647. The conditions of the question asked were in case the restrictions imposed on the Estates Commissioners were removed?—Yes, sir; but my own impression was, that the Board's real function was to prepare these poor and badly conditioned estates, to prepare them for the operation of the Land Acts. Certain districts were confined to the Board's care, and I don't see that there is any reason for two Departments interfering in the same area.

648. I understood you to say that the Board's operations would extend further than the operations of mere land purchase and transfer would mean, because the Board deal with the building up of society?—They do; and the Board constantly act on that principle. They refuse to buy an estate in any congested district which requires no re-arrangement or much improvement of the holdings to prepare them for land purchase.

649. You are not able to say, or are you aware that the Estates Commissioners' agency could be so affected as to suit all the purposes that the Board now fulfill?—I have no doubt it could.

650. Sir JOHN COLMAN.—In respect of an answer of yours as to the working of the Board, and with reference to special meeting, you said that there is never any difficulty about it, because all you have to do if some circumstance arises, is to get authority to call a special meeting? Is that so?—Yes.

651. Now, when do you get the authority from?—As a rule, I get the authority from one member. Under the Standing Orders it requires two members. Special meetings may be summoned on the requisition of the Chairman or by three members. As a matter of fact, in practice, I obtain the sanction of the Under-Secretary, who is Chairman in the absence of the Chief Secretary.

652. As a matter of fact and of experience, the machinery of the Board works perfectly smoothly?—It does.

653. And there is no hitch delaying the transaction of business by reason of the present procedure and methods of the Board?—There is some delay, but not an important delay. It throws a good deal on me, and it is often perhaps a disappointment to applicants, correspondents in the country, who write asking urgently to have certain works carried out or certain assistance given them. They have to wait until the next meeting of the Board, but if it is anything really urgent I ask to have a special meeting called.

654. Well now, with regard to another answer to a question, I understood you to say that in your opinion it would be an improvement if there were some system of representation of districts?—Of counties.

655. Of counties subdivided. That means in the terms of the Act a congested district or district of a county?—Yes.

656. Not of a county, but of a county within the meaning of the Act congested?—It is not very important, but it would be better if possible if the member nominated should be resident and should be a representative man in the congested portion.

657. And you are strongly of opinion, as I understand, that they should not be elected, but selected by

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him?—I am not strongly of opinion on that point, but I think perhaps a nominated member would be rather more independent, and his position would be more permanent.

658. That is, nominated by the Government?—Yes.

659. Well, now, can you tell me why the Inspection Committees did not so frequently operate as formerly. Why have there been less frequent visits by Inspection Committees?—I think it is chiefly my own fault. I have been so exceedingly pressed by the enormous increase of work in the office that I have not been able to get away, and have not been able to carry out the former practice of going with a party of members.

660. It is simply due to pressure on the machinery of the Board; that has caused them to fall into abeyance?—Yes, and in place of parties, individual members inspect more than they used to.

661. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—With reference to the questions that have been asked you in regard to inspection in the country by members of the Board, have you ever found it difficult to get a fair number of members of the Board to inspect in the country when there was anything urgently requiring inspection?—No difficulty, my lord.

662. Yes. Do you think that now there is so much need of inspection by large parties of the Board as at the start, when the members of the Board were not so fully acquainted with the needs of the congested districts?—I don't think there is the same necessity now as there was formerly.

663. Is it within your knowledge that within the past few years several members of the Board, sometimes separately, sometimes two together, have gone on these Inspection Committees?—Yes, my lord, they have.

664. Do you consider, with reference to the suggested change in the constitution or composition of the Board that the advantages of nomination are distinctly ahead of the advantages of the election?—Not distinctly.

665. What is the special difficulty that you apprehend in the election by the counties of members to represent them, by the County Councils?—If it was a permanent election, I think there would be very little difference, but a temporary election would be a great mistake, and I would rather fear that an elected member might perhaps insist so strongly on the claims of his own district that it might lead to some sort of equal subdivision of the Board's funds amongst all the counties, which is a principle that the Board have hitherto resisted.

666. But, if the election were to be effective for a long period of years, that danger would be reduced to a minimum?—It would.

667. And elected members from the congested counties would be very useful, would they not, in recommending the policy of the Board to the localities?—They would certainly.

668. In getting over such difficulties as we have experienced in migration?—Yes, certainly. They would know their own locality better than other members, and they would represent its wants, and they would also probably carry out more frequent inspections.

669. The temporary members of the Board that was nominated originally have all been continued?—They have, my lord.

670. May I call your attention, Mr. Mitchell, to the fact that the Act of Parliament specifies the purpose for which they were nominated, for the purpose of the business of the Board relating to fisheries, agricultural, and other special matters. They were, therefore, appointed—were not they appointed—in respect of special business?—Mr. Green's appointment would be explained in that way, but Mr. Arthur Balfour's and Father O'Hara's would hardly be.

671. Might we not take it that Father O'Hara was put on in respect of his special knowledge of agriculture and of the poor holdings in the West of Ireland, and that Mr. Arthur Balfour was put on as the founder of the Board?—Probably that is the explanation.

672. Do you consider that it would be useful if the County Councils of the congested counties, sent each one member to the Board? Do you consider that it would be useful, all the same to have a few gentlemen of special fitness on the Board from the Dublin district, so as to be available for special meetings of the Board?—I intended to mention that, my lord. It

would be a matter of great importance in discharging the Board's business. At present the two Trustees reside in Dublin; and, when payments have to be made, one of the two Trustees is generally ready to come to the Board's office and pass the payments. There are about 8,000 payments made through the Bank of Ireland every year, and it is troublesome, and rather laborious work.

673. You don't set too high a value on the difficulty of carrying on the work of the Board—the operations of the Board at the regular monthly meetings?—No, my lord, I don't think—with the power of calling special meetings and with the power, in minor matters, of obtaining the authority of a single member, there is much difficulty.

674. Has it ever occurred to you that it was a pity sometimes when members of the Board would come a great distance to attend a meeting to find, not that they had too much business to do, but that they could do no business for want of funds?—The Board's funds have not fallen quite so short as that, but the Board frequently have—in the matter of works and in every branch of their operations to restrict their schemes and their business on account of having already allotted all their income.

675. I think, you said it was a grievance sometimes that applicants in the interval of the Board's meetings could not have an answer, or could not have the grant they asked for. I ask you whether, when the Board meets it is frequently the case that the answer must be "no funds"?—Constantly, especially in regard to public works, piers and roads, and so on.

676. So far as you apprehend the distinction between the work carried on for congested areas, done by the Estates Commissioners on the one hand and by the Congested Districts Board on the other, do you think that the work done on these poor estates by the Congested Districts Board is of a very special kind?—My impression is that it was originally intended that the Board's estate business should be of a very special kind—that is to deal with the badly arranged poor congested estates.

677. Does the Board set itself to bring up to a fair social condition the poorest class of landholders?—Yes, my lord, that is their special task.

678. Would you say that it is the province of the Board to make fairly comfortable landholders of those who hitherto might be described as pauper landholders?—Yes, my lord, that is the object they have in view; that is the end for which they were working.

679. Then with reference to the time required for that transformation on a particular estate do you consider that the Board's operations, though slow have not been unnecessarily slow?—I am quite of that opinion. I don't think that rapid work is at all possible. In connection with the work the Board have to do on poor estates, I don't see how any Department can do it rapidly, if they do it as thoroughly as the Board do.

680. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Allow me to interpose one question. I think you said the Board were frequently obliged to reply to applicants that the funds at their disposal were exhausted, and that they could not give them the assistance asked for?—Yes. The Board at the beginning of every year prepare an estimate and generally allocate all their funds. Very frequently there is a considerable balance left to carry on to next year, and it is very convenient—I mean that when the Board prepare an estimate for any year it is necessary they should have a balance at the end to carry on to the next year.

681. You carry over from one year to the other?—There is generally a balance.

682. And the unexpended balance is carried on?—Yes. But when I say that the Board are short of funds I mean that they reach the end of their tether, taking into account the current year's estimates of funds provided for the current year.

683. It was about that I wanted to ask you the question how often has the expenditure of the Board come up to the total estimate sanctioned by the Treasury? Has it ever done so?—I know that on several occasions for fear that the estimate might be exceeded the work on the Board's estates has been stopped. The Chief Land Inspector has been asked to hold his hand and reduce his operations for fear that the estimate should be exceeded.

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664. Can you call attention to any case in which the total estimate sanctioned has been exceeded?—I can get the figures, but I am sure it has on many occasions. But there is one particular matter which you have, perhaps, in mind. That is the public works, piers and roads. Under that particular head there has always been a great uncertainty. The Board have promised to the County Councils contributions in aid of a great many works which the counties have not proceeded with, being, no doubt, deterred by their objection to raising the local rate, so that a large sum of money is outstanding in promises made by the Board, and the local authorities have not availed themselves of the Board's offer. So that it is impossible to say at the beginning of any year how many of these outstanding offers might be called for.

665. And as the year goes on, and you find that the County Councils are not likely to require the total sum which you estimated for them the Board begins to see that it has further funds at its disposal?—The Board sends the Treasury a revised estimate, and sometimes two revised estimates in the year, and it has generally happened that there has been a saving under the head of works.

666. Then, would it be quite correct to say that the majority of the applications refused were in respect of piers and harbours, roads, &c., for which there were no funds available?—If you begin with a balance, and if, as the year goes on you see you will have a further balance, the money is urgently wanted for other purposes, chiefly for the estates business, so that it happens every year if there is a saving ascertained about the middle of the year on works it is fully absorbed by the other heads of service.

The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Mitchell proposes to deal with the income of the Board a little later. It is a big subject.

667. Mr. O'KELLY.—You say it would throw more work on the Board if its jurisdiction were widened. It would increase the cost of administration?—Certainly, if the area of the Board's operations were enlarged, more people would make demands on the Board, and work of every class would increase.

668. A change in the definition of congestion would widen the Board's jurisdiction?—It would; but I imagine no very large addition would be made. No doubt, many electoral divisions, which were excluded from the schedule in 1890 and 1895, would have been included, if it had not been for the presence of one or two or three large holdings there. Certainly, some re-adjustment should be made on that ground.

669. You are not satisfied with the present definition?—It was an arbitrary line drawn, and in the case of all arbitrary lines there are inequalities, and I may say injustice done to some districts.

670. What change would you suggest in the definition?—Well, I think I would round off the congested districts by including any that are surrounded, or almost surrounded by congested areas; and I would also include any electoral division which contains a considerable population of poor people, but was not scheduled owing to the accident that there were one or two large holdings. There is one case in point—a large district, though not a populous one, north of Killybeg Harbour, which was excluded from the schedule. There is a poor village called Bundarra. The people there have repeatedly petitioned the Lord Lieutenant—I think they sent several petitions to Lord Dudley—asking to have the assistance of the Board. But as they are not in a congested district there was no power to assist them, unless the Board bought the estate on which they lived.

671. Would you prefer to have a definition of congestion, or prefer to leave it to the discretion of the Congested Districts Board to apply itself to congestion whenever it found it?—No. I think leaving it to the discretion of the Board would lead to interminable correspondence and constant pressure on the Board. I think the largest part of the Board's office would be employed in dealing with such applications. I think it would be better to draw a hard and fast line, but drawing it more liberally than the present line.

672. As you know that congestion is substantially confined to some eight counties, would you think it would be well to schedule the county as a whole, and abolish the present arbitrary definition of congestion?

—I think it would be better, with a view to economising the Board's funds, not to include the whole county, but to include more electoral divisions than are at present included.

673. If you would not schedule the whole county, don't you think it would be a good way to determine per head the rated valuation of the people on the actual holdings, not including the unassessed lands that generally surround them?—That is my point—that many electoral divisions have been excluded owing to there being one or two tenements, estates, perhaps, included in the electoral division, with a large number of poor people. In the case of the district north of the Killarney, that was excluded simply owing to the fact that there were two large shooting lodges that raised the average valuation.

674. Of course, you are aware that in one county alone in the west, the County Mayo, there are fifty electoral divisions excluded for the cause you have mentioned—fifty distinct electoral divisions?—I am not aware of that. But if you take the County Galway, the greater part of East Galway is fairly well off. It differs entirely from the West of Galway.

675. My point is this—in the County Mayo also, which is very much congested, fifty different electoral divisions are excluded by the present definition?—I am not aware of the exact number, but I know that in every county there are a great many excluded.

676. It has been suggested by Sir Antony MacDonnell that the Estates Commissioners do their work with greater despatch than the Congested Districts Board. That is, that they transfer land with greater despatch?—I have no personal acquaintance with their work.

677. It has been suggested by Sir Antony MacDonnell that that is so?—I can only argue from the Board's point of view. I know from the enormous labour and care expended by the Board's staff on the congested estates they have to deal with that it is absolutely impossible to deal with any such work rapidly.

678. I only want you to admit that Sir Antony MacDonnell made the suggestion. Do you think the work of the Estates Commissioners, at least the work of the Estates Commissioners have been performing up to this, is analogous to the work of the Congested Districts Board?—I have no exact information. But I believe they have dealt with a few of the estates which were originally regarded as the Board's special province; that is, very congested, badly arranged estates which the Board would have prepared for the operation of the Land Purchase Acts by re-arranging the holdings, if they had purchased them.

679. You are not aware, then, whether the Estates Commissioners have carried out improvements in the estates which they have purchased in the congested areas as the Congested Districts Board has been in the habit of doing?—I am not aware, but I have heard that they have dealt with a few estates.

680. Mr. BURKE.—If you gave the rather narrower definition to the operations of the Board, might you not prevent the operations in such districts as East Galway, to which you have alluded as being fairly prosperous, from being used for the purpose of relieving congested districts in the neighbourhood?—You mean that if the entire county were scheduled the Board would have discretion?

681. It was rather with reference to your point that you would draw a hard and fast line. If you drew the hard and fast line, might you not prevent the beneficial operations of the Board in districts which your definition would exclude, with the object of relieving the districts within the congested area?—That is quite so; but it is all a matter of money. If the Board's income were sufficiently increased, it would be well to extend the operations over the whole of Ireland, for you will find poor districts in every county.

682. Yes, but apart from that particular point, suppose that if in West Galway as a congested district—I don't mean to say it is possible at all—but suppose you found it possible to conduct operations on a large scale, would not you be very much hampered in your operations by drawing this hard and fast line, which would prevent the Board from acting in districts outside the definition, for the benefit of districts which were inside the definition?—The Board have power now to buy land wherever they please.

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704. Whether in the congested districts or not?—They have. But I think you are quite correct in your view that if there is any hard and fast line it would create some obstacle; it would create some difficulty in the Board's dealings with the lands which they buy outside the limits. That difficulty has occurred.

705. The CHAIRMAN.—Is not the position Mr. Bryce takes on this?—The Congested Districts Board can buy land at present wherever they choose, but they cannot buy land outside the congested districts for the purpose of settling the poor people who are in non-congested districts?—That is so. When they buy land outside the congested districts they must do it on the understanding that they are purchasing it for the benefit of some congested district county.

706. Suppose that in the area you were speaking of, north of the Killarney, you were to buy grass lands outside the congested districts you could not move any of the poor people in the immediate neighbourhood to them, because the area is not in the congested districts?—Yes. The Board have no power to deal with those people. But if the Board bought the estate on which they live they have the power under the Act of 1893 to have that district specially scheduled by an order in Council.

707. Mr. BRYCE.—With regard to your objection to having the thing to the discretion of the Board, as Mr. Nichol suggested yesterday should be done, do you think that the objection to that particular course would be got over, and at the same time a very considerable amount of elasticity left, if you restored to the Lord Lieutenant the power which he had in the original Act for the duration of one year to schedule a particular district?—I think that would be a very good arrangement.

708. And would not it be a good thing to make that power to the Lord Lieutenant a permanent one for application at any moment?—I think it would.

709. Mr. Nichol suggested yesterday that it would be a great thing to reduce the unit and to have the township as the unit. Do you see any objection to that?—It would introduce unnecessary complexity. I think the electoral division is a very suitable unit.

710. I think the other day—on Wednesday, I believe—I saw an estate which would certainly have been included—the estate close to the Roche estate. It was an estate where there was a large demesne. I understood from Mr. Doran there was considerable dissatisfaction among the tenants of that estate because it was not included as a congested area. If the townland had been a unit you would have been able to include that estate?—Yes. Of course that could have been met by the inclusion of an electoral division which contained a large number of poor occupiers.

711. Then you would require to re-adjust your definition—you would not go upon the thirty shillings basis? Do I understand these people you refer to were above the thirty shillings basis?

712. They must have been in the electoral division or they would have been included?—Not necessarily, because the average of the population in this electoral division may have been above the limit.

713. I want your suggestion with regard to dealing with cases of the kind?—I think it would be hardly necessary to deal with such a small area as a townland. That is more a question on which Mr. Doran would be able to give you an opinion.

714. Mr. Doran tells me the estate I refer to is the Ballinacorney estate. It immediately adjoins the Roche estate?—Yes, an estate which the Board had bought.

715. Well, now, to come to another point, is not there at present a certain conflict—it may be an avoidable rivalry—between the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board in certain regions? I am not aware that this exists. Of course the mere fact that two departments may buy an estate may point that way. But so far there has been plenty of room for both.

716. If the operations were conjoint, might not the co-ordination of the operations be much better than if they were being done by two independent bodies who don't necessarily know what the other is doing?—Assuming each is equally competent, and employs equally efficient officers, there would be no objection. Of course comparisons would be made, and possibly the people most interested—that is the tenants—might from one report they get or another say in one place they preferred one body to deal with the estate, and in another place select another body. But I don't see any great practical difficulty.

717. If both operations were being conducted by one body, would not the transference, migration, and re-adjustment be much more easily managed than if that were being done by two independent bodies. I reason for last spring being down in Kerry, and there were two, I think, adjoining estates; one had been bought by the Congested Districts Board, and the other by the Estates Commissioners. It seems to me that it would have been a great advantage if the operation had been conjoint?—It would have been in a case like that, but it very rarely happens that the two Departments have bought estates very near one another.

718. With regard to the constitution of the Board, it is certainly a very unusual thing to find a large body of men carrying on operations of so important and extensive a kind, and working without being paid for the work. It is an anomaly, and in Scotland, where the same thing has existed, it is now being put an end to. The Congested Districts Board have so far been a voluntary Board in Scotland, but is now going to be made a paid Board, and seated with the Land Commission in Scotland?—I would say that the record made by this Board would justify continuing it on the same basis, and would justify the original constitution. I think the fact that they are unpaid is rather an advantage. They are more representative. There is a wider view taken of everything, and there is more full discussion.

719. But don't you think it is largely a matter of luck, an extraordinary piece of good luck, that during the course of these fifteen years there has been found a body of men to give unpaid services of this very exacting kind?—It is luck; but I think in Ireland it would never be difficult to get good men who would do the same. I don't think there would be ever any difficulty in getting highly-qualified men to do the work as members of the Board who would be perfectly willing to do it without any remuneration.

720. You said you preferred, if the Board continued, that it should be a nominated body rather than an elected body. Would it not have more public confidence if the majority of the members at least were elected?—Unless you have the whole of them elected, I think it would be rather a one-sided arrangement. I won't give any opinion very confidently on it, but I think the people would be fully satisfied if a representative man from a district were nominated by the Government.

721. You are of opinion as regards the rapidity of operations, as between the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board, that the Congested Districts Board can complete its purchase operations, and work quite as rapidly under its present constitution as the Estates Commissioners can?—I don't give an opinion as to the work done by the Estates Commissioners, but I feel fully justified in saying that the Board's work, considering the elaborate and careful manner in which it is done, could not be done more rapidly. Of course there has been delay in the Board's dealing with estates due to the fact that they have to wait till the estates are vested. That is work done, not by them, but by the Land Commission. Under the recent Act of 1903 the legal work of preparing the conveyance of their own estates was taken away from the Board and transferred to the Land Commission.

722. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—One question or two with reference to the question of the definition that would meet the necessities of the case. Will you kindly look up Section 36 of the Act of 1891, and if after the words "takeable value" there were inserted the words "omitting subjects exceeding an annual value of"—say whatever number of pounds you thought right—that is, omitting such subjects from your calculation, how would that meet your view?—That would meet it, except that you would have to fix a maximum. On your suggestion I think you might have to include any electoral division in which there was a small number of poor people.

723. When the districts were originally scheduled no portion of a county was included unless 20 per cent. of the people fell below this average. Would you apply a similar rule to the electoral divisions?—In addition to your suggestion it would meet it if you apply a similar rule to the electoral divisions, or if it was thought that an electoral division containing only one-fifth of its population—I make the suggestion because that is really the plan adopted by the Congested Districts Board for Scotland. You have not got a limit of this kind at all, but they adopt one with that proviso?—I think if there was not a minimum limit imposed it would scatter the scheduled districts very

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much by including a large number of electoral divisions in which there were only a very small number of poor people.

724. Then I would ask you this question. It was contemplated evidently by the Act that the working of this Congested Districts Board was to be temporary?—It was.

725. For twenty years?—And until Parliament saw fit to terminate it.

726. I never heard it stated, as you did to-day, what the object of the establishment of the Congested Districts Board was, but you stated it was in order to prepare certain estates for re-sale to the tenants?—That has been their work. If the holdings were fairly well arranged, and were of sufficient size there would be no occasion for the interference of this Board between the landlord and the tenants. The landlord could sell to the tenants direct through the Land Commission.

727. It was to bring these particular places up to the normal state of Ireland before there would be any sale of land?—To prevent the perpetuation of the confusion in which the holdings at present stand.

728. And Parliament evidently expected that the work would be finished in twenty years?—No, sir. When the Act was passed it was not contemplated that the Board would buy any estates, but it was intended that they should enlarge holdings. But I don't think that the scope of the work was realized then—the extent of the work that had to be done.

729. Is section 37, sub-section 7 not clear?—There is a provision there made for migrating. How could you migrate?—That, in fact, was the mistake made at the time. It was assumed that the Board was able to migrate tenants on to the property of private owners. It was exceedingly troublesome, and almost impossible to do so. It meant so much interference.

730. You would require, in fact, to have the co-operation of the landlord?—You would require that most. It has been found to be impracticable.

731. What were the other complications, apart from the unwillingness of the proprietor?—It assumes of course that there is land available for the enlargement on the same estate.

732. I am not talking of enlargement, but of migration. Migration is the word used?—When the Act passed there was no place to migrate them to. The Board were not to buy land. They could only go to an estate and suggest to the owner that the holding of one large tenant might be purchased. There was some arrangement made for paying for the holding. It was to be then held by the Land Commission, and the intention was that the Board should then ask the landlord to sub-divide that land amongst the other tenants.

733. Did they ever do that?—Never.

734. Why?—They have attempted it recently. Where they have bought land and have found very poor tenants on the adjoining area, belonging to other proprietors, they have attempted it, but it has been practically a failure because the difficulties were so great.

735. And have the landlords of Ireland who have been appealed to to assist the Board in this matter made no response?—There has been no case of refusal, but on the other hand the Board have not been in a position to approach owners of property and ask them to make such arrangements.

736. But it would cost much less than the purchase of land?—The purchase of land is an absolute necessity to carry out any large scheme of enlargement of holdings.

737. It has not been found so in Scotland?—The great remedy for congestion in Ireland is to buy untenanted land. There is no other means. The Board should not only buy untenanted land, but should buy out large tenants—land which is now occupied by grasses or large tenants, and endeavour to utilize that land for the enlargement of small holdings or for the migration of tenants to new holdings.

738. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What objection would there be to subdividing the whole of the present congested counties as congested, because the Board need not assist if they don't like?—No, but there would be great difficulty in refusing applications, and the Board would have demands made from such a large population, quite double the number of people they have now in their province, that it would require a very large income.

739. You do not think it would free their hands more to have the whole of every county which is at

present congested scheduled?—No, I do not think so. It would create very heavy demands on the Board's funds, and would lead to very serious disappointment and grievances.

740. Has it ever occurred that the Congested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners have clashed in the purchase or proposed purchase of estates?—Arrangements have now been made to prevent any clashing, but in one case the owner of an estate declined an offer made by the Board, and subsequently negotiated with the Estates Commissioners. That was some time ago, and arrangements have now been made between the two bodies to prevent anything of the kind again.

741. Is it possible now?—No.

742. Sir ANTOINE MACDONNELL.—I have a few questions supplementary to what I have already asked you. What is the gross sum, in or about, which is available for the improvement of estates, when the Board purchase them, at present?—The Board at present have only about £11,000 a year, apart, I mean from the money that they spend on staff.

743. But available for the improvement of estates there is about £11,000 a year?—Yes.

744. That is the measure of the extent to which the Board can purchase land?—It is the measure of the amount they can afford to lose annually.

745. And that, translated into terms of land purchase, would mean the expenditure on land purchase of about £140,000?—Yes, about that.

746. If the Board's purchases be limited to £140,000 a year, will it not result from the operations of the Estates Commissioners, that all, or the greater portion of the untenanted land which is necessary for the relief of congestion will be lost to the Board?—Yes, the Board's work will be so indefinitely prolonged that it would be absurd for them to continue the work.

747. Then if that be so, is not the country in the danger of falling between two stools?—If the Congested Districts Board gets no more money, the means of relieving congestion will slip away from it, while the Board itself would be unable to proceed. If the Board got no more money, the work would still have to be done.

748. That is just my point—the work would still have to be done. Then, would it not be desirable if the Board gets no more money, would it not be inevitable, that the work should be done by some other department?—If the Board cannot obtain an increase of funds it would be necessary, unless they gave up the whole of their other work.

749. Therefore the same is really to give the Board more funds or transfer part of the Board's work to some other Department—the Estates Commissioners, or some other Department?—Yes, sir; but the impression which I gathered from Mr. Miels' evidence yesterday was that there might be some advantage or economy in transferring it to some other body, such as the Estates Commissioners, and that the Board's money should be expended for other purposes. There would, I think, be no economy, because the Board's work, although transferred, would cost quite as much money, and the expenditure of the new body would require another large outlay.

750. But my point is, as regards the land. If the Congested Districts Board is not placed in possession of greater funds for the purchase of lands it will inevitably result that in a few years the land will be sold under the operation of the Estates Commissioners, and all opportunity for relieving congestion by means of enlarging holdings will have slipped away altogether?—Yes.

751. That is my point?—Yes, it will slip away quickly.

752. Sir JOHN COLSON.—I want just to clear up my mind as regards a portion of your evidence. Under Sub-section 2, Clause 35, you say the Lord Lieutenant for one year after the passing of the Act, had power to include districts which did not come up to the standard. Is not that so?—Yes.

753. That Sub-section also gave power to the Lord Lieutenant to exclude?—I read the letter from the Board to the Government suggesting that no electoral division should be excluded.

754. But I am dealing with that recommendation of yours, and that this for one year gave the power to the Lord Lieutenant to include or exclude?—Yes.

755. And you said you thought it very desirable that that power should be made permanent?—I re-

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inged then, in answer to Mr. Bryce, to the power to exclude, and not to exclude.

756. That is what I want to clear up. You would not give power to exclude, but you would give power to include?—I do not see any objection to power of extending, but of course it would create a good deal of ill-feeling.

757. My reason for asking the question is this. Assume a whole electoral division in which the operations of the Board have been completed, the land improved and sold to the peasant proprietors; that business being closed, does it remain as a congested area on the books of your Board?—It would, for all other purposes, excepting the land purchase work, with regard to fisheries, industries, and the improvement of holdings.

758. Yes, but in the case of an inland place where you have taken the land, improved it, and sold it to the tenants, is that then excluded in point of fact as a congested district?—No, sir; it is not excluded. It is still under the Board's care with regard to the improvement of roads and the introduction of industries.

759. Then, the Board having distributed, improved, and re-sold the electoral division, the responsibility both as regards looking after it, and future expenditure is not closed?—No, these scheduled districts are permanently under the charge of the Board so long as the Board exists.

760. Do you not think it advisable that the Lord Lieutenant or somebody should have the authority, when the work of the Congested Districts Board has been done to the fullest extent in a particular district to exclude that district?—No, unless the Board are in a position to report that the condition of the people was so satisfactory that there was no other improvement necessary.

761. But is not the whole proceedings of your Board based on the assumption that having done as I have indicated with regard to the land you have gone to the utmost limit of your powers?—With regard to the improvement of estates the Board at present have not sufficient money; as Sir Anthony MacDonnell has just said, to carry on their work at such a pace as would justify their continuing it at all.

762. Then there is no terminal point in the responsibility of the Congested Districts Board in the case of an estate fully dealt with?—There is no terminal point. It is perpetually under their charge while the Board exists, with certain duties imposed by the Act of 1891, under which they are constituted, and it rests in the discretion of the Board to carry out any work included under that Act of 1891 in any portion of the congested districts.

763. But would it not be the only possible way of getting rid of that responsibility for the Lord Lieutenant having authority, as regards such districts, to exclude them from the operation of the Act?—But it would be hardly necessary because the Board have full discretion in that matter; and there are some electoral divisions in the congested districts in which they have done nothing.

764. But assuming that the property has been fully dealt with, and assuming that through misfortune or some other cause, the district slips back, is the Congested Districts Board still responsible for putting it back again?—It would remain in the Board's charge.

765. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—With reference to the need of the Congested Districts Board for an increase of income. Hitherto how has the income of the Board been assigned to it. Has it been by Act of Parliament?—The funds of the Board of course all originate under Act of Parliament, but they have been mainly derived from Irish sources.

766. Let me take them individually. The income on the Church surplus of £41,350—has that been assigned to the Board by Act of Parliament?—It has.

767. Has the £25,000 under the Act of 1899 been assigned to the Board by the Act of Parliament?—It has.

768. Has the £20,000 under the Act of 1903 been assigned to the Board by the Act of Parliament?—It has.

769. Is it the fact then that the whole endowment of the Board has come to it under various Land Acts?—Under various Acts of Parliament.

770. And these are Land Acts?—They are all Land Acts.

771. In case of a Bill being proposed in Parliament to amend the existing land legislation would it be reasonable to expect that that Bill would contain a

clause improving the income of the Congested Districts Board?—It would be most reasonable, my lord, because Parliament has gradually built up the Board and its powers, and gradually increased its funds, and now it would be a very extraordinary thing, when they have equipped them with all these powers, and the Board are now prepared to enter seriously on their work, if Parliament were to cut the work short.

772. And you say it would be reasonable to expect an increased income under an Act of Parliament rather than going to the Treasury by way of application, in view of the fact that it has been through Acts of Parliament that all income has hitherto been derived?—Yes; going to the Treasury would be useless.

773. Mr. O'Kearney.—In reply to a question from Mr. Kavanagh, you said that you would be opposed to the general scheduling of the counties congested. Do I understand that your position is due to the fact that you have not funds to deal with the larger areas that would follow?—Quite so.

774. But if the funds of the Board were increased you would be in favour of having all congested parishes included?—No; it is too much to hope that the Board's income would be sufficiently increased.

775. Let me assume, and let you also assume, that the income of the Board was sufficiently enlarged to deal with congestion wherever you found it; would you then be in favour of what I suggest?—Decidedly.

776. The CHAIRMAN.—On that point, do you mean to say that if the income of the Board was to be substantially, or greatly increased, you would be in favour of taking in the whole county in which congested areas exist?—What I meant, my lord, was this, that on the broad question whether, if the Board's income were sufficiently increased—and that would mean very largely increased—there would be no objection to the increase of the area under their charge. I do not think there would.

777. Now, take the illustration you gave as now of Galway. You have parts of Galway which are very poor, and other parts which are very prosperous, or at least, quite prosperous enough to continue without the aid of the Congested Districts Board. What would be the advantage of including the whole of Galway as a congested district?—There would be very serious disadvantage, in this way, as I have already said, that it would create expectations which could not be fulfilled. There would be an immense number of applications to the Board from places where it would not be proper to give any assistance. The advantage would be that the Board could, in their discretion, pick out spots, wherever they are placed, where they might wish to operate.

778. Would not the picking out of certain spots be a cumbersome way of doing it?—It would. I have only said that it might be advisable on the assumption that a very large increase—I might say an impossible increase—would be made to the Board's income.

779. Even if you had a large increase of income would it not be a far more convenient and a far more satisfactory way to everybody if you gave to the Lord Lieutenant the power which he once had of selecting areas, no matter where they existed, and allowing the Congested Districts Board to deal with them?—I think that would be a far better system.

780. Would not that be far more economical than including in a scheduled district the whole of a county in part of which no difficulty existed?—It would. The other is practically an impossible contingency, and there is very little hope that the Board's income would be increased on such a scale as would make it feasible.

781. I think that Mr. Michel, in answer to a question of mine on that point, said he was opposed to the Lord Lieutenant's power being revived, because he did not think that any Lord Lieutenant would have sufficient experience to decide which areas should be included. Of course no Lord Lieutenant would do such a thing without obtaining the advice of the Congested Districts Board. A plan of that kind, a revival of the old power, would require the Congested Districts Board from the pressure to include areas which should not be included?—It would.

782. You said you were in favour of the Congested Districts Board remained—of the Board being strengthened by the inclusion of representatives of the various counties in which congestion exists?—Yes.

783. Do you not think that that plan would have the effect of limiting your choice of men very much.

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I think you said there were eight counties concerned?—I said there were six counties unrepresented.

763. Take the case of Mayo, or any other county. Suppose a vacancy occurred in Kerry, would it not be a great pity to have to fill that vacancy necessarily by a Kerry man, when two or three other highly qualified men to deal with this question existed, but lived in other counties?—Yes, but the chief advantage would be satisfying the feeling of the Kerry people. For the general efficiency of the Board it is quite likely that another gentleman unconnected with Kerry might be a better business man, but even then he would not have the knowledge of that particular district. I ought, perhaps, to mention that as there was no member of the Board resident in Kerry, Lord Shadlenbury, after his appointment, undertook to look after the interests of Cork and Kerry.

764. But is it your experience that local knowledge is of such importance in the affairs of this Board—in other words that the problems in these congested areas are so different, one from another—that local representation is necessary?—I do not say it is necessary, but it would have advantages, and it would be satisfactory to the people.

765. Do you think these advantages would be greater than the obvious disadvantage of limiting the choice of selection?—That is a difficult question. Of course it depends on the persons, or what individuals are to be found, or are available for appointment, and on that I could not give an opinion, but I think it is quite clear that in the larger counties it would be very easy to find suitable men—in fact in all counties I think it would be easy to find suitable members and representative men.

766. Do you think there is any feeling at present that the Board is not sufficiently representative of local interests?—There is, sir.

767. Then, of course, you would contemplate, if the selection was made from the different counties interested, having, as one Commissioner pointed out, several members in addition?—Yes, I think it would be very desirable to have some members resident near Dublin.

768. You have said that in late years the pressure on the machine—that is to say, on the secretarial office—had so much increased that you yourself had not been able to make many expeditions to the country. Will you tell me how that pressure was so great?—Chiefly owing to the estates. The Board have now more than one hundred estates on their hands. The Board have by far the largest estate agency in Ireland, and their work is not simply the work of an estate agency in collecting rents. The Board have all the trouble of purchase, re-arrangement, and carrying out of works, and then of re-sale. It is incessant change.

769. Then it is that that has increased the work?—Yes.

770. Has your staff been permanently increased?—Yes, the staff now numbers about eighty.

771. Do you consider that staff adequate to deal with the work?—The Board have power to appoint temporary clerks when necessary, and they do so.

772. I suppose that the work of the staff—the secretarial work of the Board, has been to a certain extent relieved by the transfer to the Land Commission of the actual payment arrangements, and also by the transfer to the Department of Agriculture?—It was relieved temporarily, but the estate work has more than compensated for that. You ask me as to the staff, and I have some figures here. Excluding the Secretary and Assistant Secretary, there are now seventy-seven clerks employed by the Board. The average salary of the entire number is £135; including the Secretary and Assistant Secretary the average of the whole is £153. I am aware that this is the lowest average salary of any Civil Service office in Dublin, excluding the Land Commission, where there are a hundred clerks employed. Excluding those, the Board's staff is by far the cheapest in Dublin. While the Board pay low salaries, they have, I think, excellent value given them by the zeal and energy of the staff.

773. With regard to that point on which Sir Antony MacDonnell was questioning you, namely, the transfer of the land purchase operations from the Congested Districts Board to the Estates Commission, I take it that your view is that so long as the Congested Districts Board can be given sufficient

money to carry on their operations without any undue delay and with a reasonable prospect of getting estates purchased in those areas before the unimproved land becomes bought up, that you would be in favour of allowing those operations to remain in the hands of the Congested Districts Board?—Certainly.

774. Is it your feeling it would be a considerable advantage, and at the same time it might be antagonistic to the class of work the Board is doing in those areas if a change had to be made?—I do think that the Board's organisation is now complete. They have an experienced staff, and have machinery for carrying on the work which has been given to them from time to time by Parliament, with increased funds and increased powers, and it would be very bad to set it short now and to terminate it.

775. But you conceive the purchase work of the Board to be so important that rather than hamper that work through lack of funds you would be prepared to see that work transferred to some other body?—The work must be done. It is absolutely essential in the interests of the people that the work should be done.

776. But of course, the ideal thing from your point of view would be for the present machinery to be strengthened?—Yes, and I would imagine that while the Board would have plenty to do in the congested districts there is certainly plenty for the Estates Commissioners to do in the rest of Ireland.

777. You said in answer to Sir Antony MacDonnell that the money the Board could now lay on the improvement of estates was only £11,000 a year?—Yes.

778. And you calculated from that that the total amount available for land purchase in any one year was £140,000?—That is the value of the amount of property they could turn over in the year. If they bought and re-sold that amount of property, consisting as it would of very poor estates needing large expenditure, the Board would probably by necessary expenditure lose about £11,000 a year in dealing with that amount of land.

779. But have you calculated the revenues of the estates?—That is after allowing for that.

780. Take the case of the Dillon estate, how much money have you lost in reselling the Dillon estate?—Nothing.

781. How much money was spent on the Dillon estate on improvement works?—The Board must have spent £99,900 or £70,000?—Yes.

782. On improvements?—Yes. I have not the exact figures here, but I find in the annual report that up to the end of last year £147,000 in all has been spent since the purchase. Part of that was, of course, met by the rents that you referred to.

783. While that estate was in your hands you used the revenues for the purpose of improvement?—Yes. The Board does that in every case.

784. Why then would it not be possible to buy estates occasionally on which they can by using the revenues improve and re-sell without loss?—Because the first charge on the rents is the interest they have to pay on the capital they borrow. When they obtain the advance to purchase the estate they have to pay interest on the capital.

785. Why is it possible to do it on the Dillon estate if it is not possible to do it on the others?—The Dillon estate was bought at a very moderate price some years ago under the old Acts of Parliament, while land was cheaper and the tenants paid rather higher rents than they are generally willing to pay now. There is pressure exerted on the Board now when they buy estates by tenants to reduce the rents as much as possible so as to approach the amount of the annuities, which they would have to pay after the estate is re-sold.

786. Does it come to this, that the reason you have got to a financial difficulty is not so much because your income is inadequate for the scale of operations, but because you have now got to pay more for the estates?—It is both. The people are equally poor or poorer; the price of the estate is higher, and the Board have much more of the class of work in hand, that is, they deal with so much larger an extent of property that their income is insufficient.

787. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You mentioned two causes. First, the high price that they now pay for land, and, second, the reduction of rents which you are forced to give when you purchase the estate.

Would you develop that a little. When you buy an estate you buy it upon the rental furnished you by the landlord. When you buy the estate you pass that rental under review. Do you reduce the rents, or do you levy from the tenants interest on the purchase money which you pay for the estate?—In many cases the tenants had almost concluded arrangements with their landlords, and would, of course, expect very shortly to be placed on the Land Commission security scale, that is, paying an annuity instead of rent. In some cases when the Board buy an estate they have made arrangements with the tenants, and charge them only 3½ per cent., or an amount approximating an annuity.

303. So your funds suffer from two causes. First, you have to pay an enhanced price, and secondly, you get a reduced rent, or a reduced interest in lieu of rent?—Yes, but I don't say that the reduced rent applies universally, or that it has hitherto had much effect, but it is an element that must be considered.

304. Sir JOHN COLSON.—I would like to get at a little clearer on the question of the enhanced price. We are talking of the Dillon estate. What is the cause of the enhanced price if there was an enhancement?—The Dillon estate was bought on favourable terms, about fifteen years' purchase. It was re-sold at fifteen and a half years' purchase, but cost the Board rather less.

305. Is that due to the reduction of the interest payable by the tenants, when you talk about enhancement of price?—I mean in subsequent purchases. The Board cannot expect that landlords will now sell their estates at fifteen years' purchase. If the Board offer only fifteen years' purchase they will be able to buy no estates. Of course, since the passing of the Act of 1903 the price expected by landlords is certainly larger.

306. Is it not the case that that arises largely from the fact that the amount of annual interest to be paid by the tenant has been reduced by Parliament?—It is connected with that of course.

307. In order to induce landlords to sell?—One prominent cause would be that all those landlords who would sell their estates at a large sacrifice had sold and land purchase had come to a deadlock. It was necessary, to prevent the deadlock from continuing, to give the assistance of the State.

308. But the tenants, owing to the reduction in the rate of interest in the annuities can give a larger price, and yet as annuities be on the same basis as before?—They can.

309. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You mean that at the start, with the reduction of the annuity, the annual charge to the tenant is less?—I think Sir John Colson's point was that, as the tenant had to pay less annually, a larger capital sum can be obtained for the estate, measuring the tenants' burden by the annual charge.

310. But the annuity continues longer than under the old Act?—It does, and in the end the tenants decidedly pay very heavily for the delay, because the gross amount of interest ultimately paid is very large.

311. Do you recollect in connection with the Dillon estate that we had also some profit on land sold?—Yes, but the Board have not credited individual estates with any accidental profit of that kind. They treat it as part of their general income.

312. It goes to wipe out the indebtedness of the Board for that county to the Land Commission?—It forms part of the Board's funds available to meet losses on the management and resale of estates.

313. Mr. BRYAN.—In answer to the Chairman you said you objected to the transfer of the duties of the Congested Districts Board to the Estates Commissioners, because their competent staff had been got together, and would apparently become useless if the business was taken away from the Congested Districts Board, but ex hypothesi the staff now existing on the Congested Districts Board would be transferred to any other body that was going to do the same work?—I quite understand that, but you have not fully stated my objection. It was, that as the State has appointed the Board, developed its powers, and increased its income from year to year, and at last fitted it so fully for this particular work, it would be rather unreasonable to destroy it, and it would be a great disappointment to the country.

314. That is more or less a sentimental objection, is it not?—It might prove to be only sentimental. It is partly practical where the Board have a certain

independence, which is an assistance to them in their work. Sept 5, 1906
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315. That is your real reason; apart from that question of the staff, what is your real reason for wishing to continue this work in the hands of the Board?—I think, in the interests of efficiency, and in the interests of the country, the work would be thoroughly well done by the Board, and that a change of horses in the middle of the stream has not any very distinct advantage. If the work were badly done there would be a reason for the change, but as it has not been shown that the work was badly done I don't see any reason for the change, and I don't see that any economy would result, because the Board themselves are unpaid, and the officers are all fully employed, and the officers of any other department whom they would get to do the work are fully employed also. It is not as though there was a large staff going at half-power, and capable of doing more work in either case. In the same way, if the fisheries industries, or other work were amalgamated with any other department there would not result any economy, because the staff we have, and the other department have, are both fully employed.

316. Do you think the country would be better satisfied if the work were continued in the hands of the Board than if it were entrusted to some other body?—I am sure of it.

317. The CHAIRMAN.—Might not there very easily be an increase of cost rather than an economy by such a transfer because if you left in the hands of the Congested Districts Board the work of the piers, harbours, and fisheries, a staff would have to be maintained by that Board for those purposes?—It would be, unless the Board were abolished altogether.

318. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—If the transfer in regard to fisheries were made, not to the Estates Commissioners but to the Department of Agriculture for example?—All our fisheries work is managed by Mr. Green, who is also the Inspector of Fisheries under the Department of Agriculture. Don't take me as advocating that, but would there be any difficulty in that being done?—There would be no difficulty and no loss of funds.

319. I don't wish to be understood as proposing any alteration. I want to bring out, and have this matter thoroughly discussed. In case the funds of the Board are not sufficiently increased proportionately to the increase of work so as to enable it to perform the functions, it would seem to be inevitable that some other course must be considered, and consequently I suggest this for consideration, whether it is possible to transfer land purchase work and improvement work to the Estates Commissioners and the industries to the Department of Agriculture. To that I will come afterwards, but I understand you now to say that so far as fisheries are concerned there would be no difficulty in transferring the Board's fishery work to the Board of Agriculture?—There would be no difficulty and no loss of funds in transferring those two branches of work, but what I understood Lord Dudley to mean, and what I understood Mr. Micks yesterday to mean, was the transfer of part of the Board's work to some other department, and the continuation of the Board for some other purposes.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That was Mr. Micks' very important proposal, and a proposal that deserves further consideration.

320. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—With reference to fisheries, do you think, in the development of fisheries on the Irish Coast, it has been of any advantage that members of the Board have taken an interest in the development of those fisheries?—The whole Board has taken a most lively interest in the development of the fisheries.

321. Suppose the fishery work were transferred to the Department of Agriculture, would there be anyone on the localities taking a corresponding interest in the development of the fisheries. Take my own case for instance?—Primarily the work of developing the fisheries would fall probably on Mr. Green as hitherto, but I may say that I think that the influence of a larger body like the Board, with local interests, is an advantage to the fisheries.

322. I will put it this way. Take the case of Derragal. In working out the details of fishery schemes has it been of any advantage to the Board that a member of the Board has been resident almost in proximity to the fisheries?—It has been a great advantage.

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828. Would you lose that advantage in the event of the suggested transfer?—You would lose it. That is one of the matters in which I think the present Board, which is rather a large body, and, to a great extent, representative, would be superior to a small body of paid officials in Dublin.

829. I put this to you: considering the smallness of Irish resources is it a serious matter to suggest any interference with an industry that is prospering, which interference might prejudice it very seriously?

—Yes; as I said just now in reference to the estates business while it is well done I don't see that there is sufficient reason for taking it away from the Department that has been doing it so well.

830. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You said that since the passing of the Act of 1893 there was an increase in the price demanded by Irish landowners?—That is generally the case, and I think it was universally recognised that one great object of the passing of the Act of 1893 was to remove the deadlock.

831. But there has been an increase. Now what right that increase be?—There has been an increase. A return is being prepared for the Commission. It is not ready yet. If you would allow me I would prefer to wait.*

832. In any case you say that that increase is entirely due to the reduction in the rate of interest?—No. I think the increase is primarily due to the fact that the landlords who could afford to sell at a large loss had all sold. I believe that under the Act of 1896, when landlords were selling at about seventeen years' purchase, they lost a very large proportion of their income, and the number of landlords who could afford to sell at a loss was exhausted. They had all sold. The remainder would not sell at a loss and they held out for a price which would practically preserve their income. Of course I suppose that a landlord would be willing to sell at some reduction. He would not expect a fixed safe income of the exact amount of his net former rental.

833. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You are quite aware that there were two Acts, the Ashbourne Act and the Wyndham Act; and that under the former the term of repayment was forty-nine years, and that under the latter it was sixty-eight years?—Yes.

834. Consequently fifteen years purchase under the Ashbourne Act is about equivalent to the present price?—Yes. I was Accountant to the Land Commission for seven years, so I am quite acquainted with the terms of the different Acts.

835. The CHAIRMAN.—Are there any other points with regard to the first five heads?—I have referred to the cost of administration. I had wished to say a little more about the staff of temporary clerks.

836. If there is any point which you have left out you can refer to it.—On that point I have already given the information that the average salary paid is much lower than in any other office. I also wish to say that the Board has been no doubt at some disadvantage in having to engage a temporary staff in place of a permanent staff of civil servants; but on the other hand the temporary clerks have worked very well and are charged with a great part of the most important work in the office; so that they are not in the position of temporary clerks in other departments of the Civil Service. Their position has not been fully recognised I think in that respect. Temporary clerks in most public offices are only employed on more supervisory and routine work, but temporary clerks in this office do a great part of the most responsible work.

837. Are they pensionable?—No; they have no right to pensions.

838. Mr. BAKER.—How many of your staff have pensions?—About a dozen. I think I have got as far as number seven.

839. The CHAIRMAN.—Is there anything else that you wish to tell us about?—As to borrowed money.

840. I think you might tell us the actual income of the Board?—I have given that in a memorandum which has been circulated among the members of the Board. Memorandum B contains a statement of the Board's income in the past, and also shows the allocation of the income, the different heads of service, the different purposes.

841. Mr. MICKS told us yesterday that the income of the Board has not increased since its foundation?—He meant, I think, up to the time he left.

842. Because certainly it has increased in recent years?—Yes. The Act of 1903 increased it by £20,000.

843. Do these memoranda give all the information with regard to the income of the Board?—They do.

844. Then as to miscellaneous receipts and borrowed money?—These heads I will leave to Mr. O'Brien, the assistant secretary. There is some division of work between us, and as he will follow me I will leave that to him.

845. That brings you to number seven?—As to the purchase of estates. That has been partly discussed by the Commission. Perhaps the appointment of this Commission arose out of the Board's correspondence with the Treasury. The Board represented to the Irish Government that the work could not proceed without an increase of income.

846. You mean the origin of this Commission?—I think so.

847. Tell us a little about that?—The correspondence with the Treasury arose in connection with the estimates which were forwarded as required by Statute by the Board to the Irish Government, and through them to the Treasury, and the Board informed the Government that their estates business had increased so much that the annual loss which they had to provide for would prevent them from continuing their estates work unless they received some increase of income. In connection with the need of funds, if you allow me, I would say that unless the Board were to give up all their other work their estates business cannot proceed without more funds, as the pace at which they seek continue it would be ridiculously slow. The Board deals only with poor estates requiring large expenditure, and a considerable amount is lost on the work. As I have already stated, the Board's business is not merely to buy and sell estates. They purchase only estates requiring a large expenditure. The Board's view has always been that no matter what funds were devoted to the improvement of other parts of Ireland, the congested districts require their full share of such funds, and they also require the Board's further assistance in addition. The Board's expenditure should be in addition to, and not in place of, any expenditure made for the assistance of the country generally. The claims of the congested districts are to be measured by the number and poverty of the population. Applying this principle to the estates branch of the business, the congested districts are entitled to a large share of any estate funds obtainable. The number of holdings is about 98,000 out of 500,000 in the whole of Ireland. But a well-conditioned holding in the County Meath or other fertile portion of the non-congested districts requires no aid from public funds, while the 98,000 holdings in the congested areas include two-fifths of the poorest holdings in Ireland, that is those below £4 valuation. The value of these 55,000 holdings of below £4 valuation may average £100 or a total price of upwards of £5,500,000. The maximum loss may be taken at 10 per cent. If the Board lost 10 per cent, in dealing with these 55,000 very poor holdings, it would require a fund of £5,500,000, and they would lose about £50,000 a year for ten years—that is the loss of half a million spread over ten years would be £50,000 a year. This loss of 10 per cent. must be borne in connection with the poorest class of holdings, but no account has been taken of the loss on the other 40,000 holdings which usually are poor. It appears from these figures that as regards estates business the congested districts are entitled to a very large share of any public funds available for improvement of holdings in preparation for the operation of the Land Purchase Acts. As to fisheries, the fisheries on the coast of Cork and Kerry had been in a prosperous state long before the Board was established. The coast line from Galway to Lough Foyle comprises about one-third of the whole coast line of Ireland, and along the entire distance there is a large and poor population. No further argument is required to show that the congested districts are entitled to a very large share of any funds available for fisheries in Ireland. In the same way it can be shown that the population of the congested districts where the land is so poor would require a large portion of any fund applicable for the establishment of handicrafts, industries, and home manufactures, as well as the improvement of agriculture, the construction of roads, and so forth. The latter need—that is, the means of communication—is always a pressing one in these remote districts. The pressure of local taxation is another consideration which claims attention in the congested districts. It is hardly too much to say that having regard to the poverty of the population

* See Statement VII., p. 264.

† See p. 241.

‡ See p. 247.

in these districts they should be given half of any lands provided for the organisation and assistance of industries in Ireland.

348. The general conclusion of what you have just stated is that not only with regard to land purchase, but also with regard to fisheries and other industries, you want more money?—What I was wishing to represent was that the poverty of the people in the congested districts and their numbers entitle them to a very large share of any money that is available for any public purposes in Ireland.

349. Sir JOHN MORARTY.—For any public purposes?—Is the way of assisting the improvement of holding, the development of industries and manufactures—the work the Board has now in hand?

350. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—What funds are at your disposal?—I only intend this as a general statement.

351. You are not naming specifically at the funds of the Department of Agriculture?—No.

352. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you think that fisheries, for instance, the promotion of fisheries on the west coast of Ireland, is retarded by lack of funds?—I think the Board will in future have to spend more on fisheries, especially in Connemara, where the fisheries have not prospered so well in recent years as they did formerly.

353. In what way would you spend additional funds?—They will not require to spend any large amount. It will be chiefly in administration, in official supervision. The Board have at present sufficient money for the development of fisheries by means of loans for providing boats and gear.

354. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Do you mean to draw upon the marine grant the work of providing piers and slips; is it not a fact that the Board is constantly beset with applications for the provision of piers and slips along the west coast?—I did not refer to that.

355. Then you are only dealing with a part of the subject?—Yes. As to piers and roads I was assuming that the Board would be able to continue their present expenditure.

356. Which does not cover the whole ground?—When the Board commenced—I think it was in their 9th or 10th report—it was stated that they had received applications for about £100,000 worth of wharves, piers and roads. The present position is that the Board having spent £134,000 have before them still another £100,000 of applications. Of course if the Board could be endowed with further funds for piers and roads in the congested districts it would be a very great advantage; but the Board are so anxious to obtain further funds for the estates business that they have not urged the necessity for further funds for public works.

357. The CHAIRMAN.—Is it your opinion that past expense has fallen upon the Congested Districts Board with regard to the erection of piers in the West, owing to the unsatisfactory way in which those things were done by the Board of Works in the old days?—No, I don't think that. I know the Board of Works have been blamed for mistakes committed by a Royal Commission which inspected the west coast and fixed the position of certain piers. I think not in 1882; but of course as to the past there is no doubt about it that the provision of piers for the improvement and promotion of fisheries was very much neglected. It has been taken up as well as possible by the Board, although their funds were never sufficient for any very large expenditure. The Marine Works Act of 1926 has given considerable assistance, and I believe that the funds are not yet exhausted.

358. Are not there many piers erected around the west coast in the old days which are practically useless?—There are several.

359. Has not the demand made upon the Board for expenditure on piers been consequent on the unsatisfactory way in which those were done?—Partially; but of course chiefly owing to the universal neglect of the past. During the past century, if there had been a sufficient fund available, the whole coast line might, of course have been provided with piers.

360. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Don't you attribute the backwardness of the industries connected with the sea fisheries and so on to the want of piers along the west coast?—Whenever one pier near the sea was one beset with applications for piers and boat slips?—Yes, but in many cases applications were made for piers in places where it was physically impossible without gigantic expenditure to provide what the people asked for.

361. But the necessity for some accommodation does exist?—Yes. It is a question that will be more fully explained to the Commission by Mr. Green.

362. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You say a Royal Commission did in 1882 recommend piers?—Yes.

363. And made mistakes in doing so?—Yes. I know in one or two cases there were mistakes made.

364. The CHAIRMAN.—What was that Commission called?—The Piers and Roads Commission.

365. Did they select sites for all these?—Yes.

366. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—At the same time it ought to be said on behalf of the Board of Public Works—I think your memory will support me—that two or three years ago careful inquiry was made by the Board of Works in regard to piers erected by them along the coast of Ireland. A long list was prepared with a description of the extent and character of the harbours, and the general result was not unsatisfactory?—Yes. I was not making any reflection on the Board of Works in attributing mistakes to that special Commission. The Board of Works had the duty—they had no choice whatever in the matter—of carrying out the recommendations of that Commission. I might say that the Board have been anxious to transfer to the charge of the County Council many marine works which they have constructed, but the County Councils have shown great reluctance to take them over. Special provision was made in the Local Government Act of 1888 for the transfer of marine works from this Board to the County Councils.

367. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Is it your opinion that if the Congested Districts Board handed over these piers they had constructed to the County Councils, the County Councils would probably let them go to pieces?—Is it your opinion, that there is that danger?—There is danger of that. It costs the Board about £300 a year for supervision, and carting, &c., apart from repairs. Of course I need not say that marine works require constant repairs.

368. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Why would you imagine the County Councils would let them go out of repair?—I don't say they would, but there would be the danger of it. They are very reluctant to spend money on public works on account of the pressure of the rates.

369. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Have you any concrete examples of piers transferred to County Councils which have been allowed to fall into disrepair?—No.

370. We are speaking in the air under these circumstances?—Yes; I only said there was some danger. I did not give an opinion as to what had occurred.

371. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Yes, then I put too strong a construction on what I understood you to say, I think.

372. Mr. O'KERRY.—What piers did you refer to the County Councils?—The number of works that the Board asked the counties to take over were—

373. Pardon me for a moment. I am referring to piers—are you referring to piers also?—Marine works.

374. By these you mean piers and boat slips?—Yes. In the County Cork we asked them to take over eight; in the County Kerry thirteen; in Galway nine; Mayo ten; and Donegal ten.

375. Did they refuse to take them over?—The Councils of Mayo, Galway, and Kerry refused to take over any of the Board's works. In the case of Donegal the County Council stipulated in respect of almost every work that some improvement or repair was necessary before they would take over the work. The County Council have taken over Garraunah and Coney's Cove Works, and they have at present under consideration the question of taking over some three or four others.

376. Before any of these works were constructed, was the County Council asked to offer its opinion as to whether the sites chosen were the most suitable sites?—I cannot answer that question. I know the Board's procedure is not, as a rule, to consult the County Council as to the necessity for a pier, but as a general rule now they decide on constructing a pier practically on the representations of the local authorities and of the people interested.

377. The reason I ask the question is that County Councils have often been asked to take over works in connection with the construction of which they had no voice, while at the same time recommendations of theirs with regard to the construction of new piers and harbours were not acted upon?—I should explain that when the Board had erected these works the Act had not been passed. It was not foreseen then that an Act would be passed enabling the Board to transfer

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the works to the County Council. After the Act had been passed the Board took advantage of the provisions of the Act, and asked the Councils to take over charge of the works, but the Board now in practically all cases ask the County Council whether they will contribute, or they inform the County Council that if they will undertake the work the Board will contribute. So that in all these works now they are joined, and that objection is removed.

877. Don't you think the objection of the County Councils to take over these piers and harbours is because they are apprehensive that these piers and harbours might turn out to be a white elephant on their hands in the same way as some of the works of the Board of Works?—No doubt it is on the ground of probable expenditure. I don't mean it is because they have any apprehension of very large expenditure, but they may very likely object to any expenditure. They say probably that as the Board have funds let them maintain them. Of course the County Council usually do all they can to avoid any increase in the rates.

878. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What are your statutory powers with regard to the erection of piers?—The Board have full power.

879. Without the consent of the Board of Trade?—The Board of Trade have to be consulted, but they never object to giving the Board the necessary sanction.

880. But your Board are the statutory promoters?—Yes.

881. Have you never considered that the local bodies themselves might be in that position, and you merely assist them?—They can. They had powers long antecedent to the Board's powers. But it is all a question of funds. The County Council have no funds for this purpose.

882. No, but they might apply to your Board. That would put the initiative on themselves?—They do, constantly. As I explained just now to Mr. Conor O'Kelly, the works are now in almost all cases joint works carried out by contributions made by the Board and the County Council.

883. So the County Council is thereby committed to maintenance from the commencement?—The Board sometimes commit the County Council by saying, "We will not undertake this work. If you undertake it we will give a contribution." They then have to be maintained, but if the Board did that in every case very few works would be carried out because the County Councils will not increase the rates.

884. Is not that *prima facie* evidence that these works are not required?—No; the Board sometimes adopt that argument and say if the local authorities will contribute it shows that the local authorities consider that the work is either essential or important, but the Board do not in all cases refuse to carry out work because they get no contribution.

885. In such cases they have to maintain the work in perpetuity?—The Board have to maintain it.

885a. Then with regard to your other answers about roads, you contemplate a time when the roads will all be made?—I am afraid it will be in the very distant future, because the congested districts are so scattered, the area is so large, and there are so many people who are now so far from markets that the equipping of the congested districts with sufficient roads would take a very long time and a large expenditure.

886. But there is a local road authority in Ireland?—Yes, the County Councils.

887. How do you account for the roads not being there before?—It is mainly a matter of money. There have not been funds.

888. The local road authority in such districts will have nothing to do in view of your operations—you practically supersede them for road-making?—No. In the case of roads the Board always refer the matter to the County Council or the District Council, and inform them that they will give a contribution if the Council will carry out the road.

889. The bulk of the expense falls on the Board?—The bulk of the expense falls on the Board.

890. Seventy-five per cent?—About that, or 60 per cent.

891. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Is there any arrangement that if the road is made the county will keep it up, or is it that the Congested Districts Board has to keep it in repair?—Provided the road is sixteen feet in width, the County Councils can maintain it in future, and a great many do.

892. Are they bound to maintain it?—Yes.

893. Do you make that an antecedent condition?—Yes; the Board at first make that a condition.

894. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—For the past few years has the Board expended much money in road-making?—I cannot say that they have expended much, because they have not allotted more than about £6,000 or £7,000 a year of their income to works.

895. Including piers?—Yes.

896. Do you say that a heavy portion of the expenditure on roads for the last few years has been borne by the Board?—The Board carried on altogether 187 inland works, which cost £26,000, and contributed £10,700 to ninety-one works, carried out by other bodies—that is the local authorities.

897. Has not the expenditure on roads notably increased within the last few years?—I believe it has.

898. With reference to piers, I have a question to ask you of some importance. Is the congested population on the western seaboard a large population?—Very large.

899. For relieving congestion on the western seaboard is the development of the fishing industry a main resource?—It is.

900. For the adequate development of the fishing industry is it necessary to provide more piers and ships and harbours of refuge?—It would be a great assistance undoubtedly, and as I have said in answer to a previous question, it is only the pressure of the Board's estate business that has prevented them from devoting more money to these works.

901. With reference to that congested population, do you contemplate to any extent relieving congestion among these people by transferring them to grass lands in the inland portions of the country?—That is a question on which Mr. Doran is prepared to give very full information. He has had a map prepared.

902. But you are of opinion that for relieving congestion along the coast additional marine works are required?—Certainly, and Mr. Green, I think, will confirm that statement.

903. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—With regard to roads, is it not the case that the roads you refer to are not main lines of connection at all, but are merely connecting the hamlets on the properties you buy with the main lines of connection?—They are sometimes.

903a. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Therefore they are not of the character that Mr. Sutherland refers to.

904. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Only that there was not a small amount of migration. Seeing that there has been so little migration I thought the road expenditure would not require to be so large?—Many of these remote districts are very badly provided with roads for giving access to bogs, markets, and main roads.

905. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The main point is, you do not supersede the local authority in road-making. It is the duty of the local authority to maintain and maintain through lines of communication?—In certain cases.

906. The roads the Board construct are mostly connecting links between the villages and the main lines of communication?—Yes.

907. For the purpose of opening up estates you purchase and facilitating the transit of produce to markets?—Yes, but not that merely. I think you are referring only to Mr. Doran's estate works. I was referring to the Board's expenditure on main roads under the head of works. That is scattered all over the congested districts.

908. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Yes, but it is principally that.

909. Sir JOHN COLSON.—But they are performing the county authorities' duty by making roads which the county authorities don't make?—They have no funds to do it.

910. They don't choose to appropriate money to it?—They have to consider the inevitable increase of rates.

911. Mr. O'KELLY.—They are not making all the roads that are necessary in one year, but they are making them by instalments?—No doubt they are, but it would take so many years that, of course, it would be an immense assistance to large numbers of people if the Board could construct these additional roads.

912. To undertake the construction of all the roads that would be needed in the west in one year would

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ump the ratepayers?—It is impossible for any body to do it, even in ten years.

923. Mr. BARNES.—You have said you consider the congested districts had a claim to a large share of the funds available for the development of industry and public purposes of other kinds, which would be for the assistance of the population, outside its own local?—I was repeating, or informing the Commission of a view the Board have frequently expressed, and that is, that whatever assistance is given to the congested districts should be in addition to the assistance which will apply to the country generally.

924. I quite understand that. As a matter of fact, have the congested districts got assistance from the general funds outside the funds under the control of the Congested Districts Board?—They have.

925. Is it not the case that in the allocation of money those congested districts are provided for, but it depends on the Congested Districts Board of any funds are to be spent?—That partly does exist, but Mr. O'Brien, who will follow me, has prepared a memorandum on that very point in which he will be able to answer your question.

926. The CHAIRMAN.—I don't think you told us about the parish committees?—I have handed in a paper (Memorandum F) on the subject to which I wish to add.* I would like to be permitted to add a short statement to what I have already given to the Commission, because I am aware of the views held by some, that as the Board make grants to individuals the system has a perplexing effect. If the Board merely gave money to the stranger to spend as he wished it would have a perplexing effect, no doubt, but where the Board require a very large amount of work to be done, and this considerable expenditure has to be made by the recipient of the grant, there is no perplexation. This problem may be understood better if it be compared with the reform of a miserable slum district in a city. No one would expect to effect the reform of such a poor district in a city by means of instruction or advice. Capital is essential, and in Dublin the local authorities would have to expend a very large amount of capital in order to improve and remodel the houses of the people. The Board has done similar work in the country at comparatively an infinitesimal cost, or a very small cost.

927. Sir JOHN COLSON.—From what we heard and read, these parish committees are doing a very laudable work from the sanitary point of view?—Yes.

928. Work which was not done until these parish committees were established?—That is so.

929. Is it not the case that both the ratepayers and the imperial taxpayers are paying in those very districts for that very work being done by sanitary inspectors appointed by the District Council?—Is not that so?—It is again a question of money. There have been funds thoroughly to remodel those houses, and carry out the sanitary works on the whole the Board are doing it. There are not sufficient local funds.

930. Are you not aware that the salaries of these sanitary officers are not a matter of option at all, but that they are fixed by the Local Government Board, and have to be paid?—Yes, but the task of obliging every small cottage in the country to have an out-house for the cattle, and to have a thoroughly sanitary house and surroundings would be beyond the power of the sanitary authorities.

931. Actually, according to law, it is what the sanitary authorities are paid for?—It is.

932. Then in these districts you have got officials paid partly out of rates, and partly out of imperial taxes for doing work which, from one cause or another, is not done by them, and you have got the Congested Districts Board paying money for doing that work. Has it occurred to the Congested Districts Board to inquire as to whether, where a parish committee is in active operation, it would not be better that part of the money should go to them. I only ask you has the matter been considered?—It has. I should first of all say that the money the Board gives is only a small fraction of the improvement that is effected, and the Board call upon these parish committees to inform the sanitary authorities if the people, after having had assistance, break the sanitary regulations.

933. Am I to understand that the Congested Districts Board have had this particular point before

them, this duplication of expenditure; one by a body of very limited funds, the parish committee, and the other by a body that does not exercise its authority of making these people do the work?—It has been obvious to the Board that in the absence of funds it would be absurd to put extreme pressure on the sanitary authorities.

934. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In further elucidation of that point do the parish committees go much beyond mere sanitation?—They do, improving the holdings and houses.

935. Would you say they require substantial sanitation as a preliminary to expenditure?—It should be the first thing done undoubtedly.

936. What is the regulation on that point?—Under the Board's regulations the first grant that can be made to any cottager must be for this sanitary work, the erection of out-houses for his cattle so that they can be removed from the dwelling. Unless he carries out that work he can get no grant from the parish committee.

937. Is the removal of the cattle a condition precedent?—Yes, before he can get any other grant.

938. Is not the removal of the manure heap a condition precedent?—Yes.

939. The grants come subsequently?—The grants for other matters come subsequently.

940. Would you say this, the parish committees having done much to improve the homestead are turning largely to the improvement of the farm?—They are, no doubt, because if every man who has had his homestead improved gets another grant it is naturally for the improvement of his holding.

941. Are there prizes given for reclamation and drainage by parish committees?—Yes.

942. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—While appreciating the value of the work as far as one can judge why do you say the Department could not do this work?—I am quite sure that a public department, tied down by strict regulations and Acts of Parliament, would never have commenced such a system as the giving of these grants which have been so beneficial.

943. What Act of Parliament had you in your mind? Are there no Acts of Parliament with full powers to the Department to make regulations?—There has never been an Act of Parliament which would institute such a system as this.

944. But that is not in the departmental system; it would be quite possible to give powers like this to any department?—It would be possible, but they have never invented it.

945. It is not inherent in the Board or Department?—If it had been invented it would have been very difficult to finance it under strict regulations.

946. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In Ireland the parish committee system distinctly the creation of the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, since 1892.

947. Started originally by Father O'Hara, and subsequently considerably modified?—Yes, developed considerably in subsequent years.

948. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Don't the Estates Commissioners do something of the sort in connection with the erection of houses on new holdings. Don't they give grants, not as much as the cost of the house, but a certain proportion provided that the house is built according to certain plans and meets with approval; is it not something of the same sort, though not in such detail, as in the case of the parish committee?—That is, on the estates?

949. Yes?—I have no knowledge of it.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You may take it from me they do. I only mention it with reference to Mr. Sutherland's question. It is quite possible, within the lines of the Act of Parliament, to do something of the same sort at all events.

950. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is there any department in Ireland except the Congested Districts Board with such committees?—No, there is not.

951. Mr. BRYCE asked yesterday about the driving force of the Congested Districts Board. What is the driving power of a parish committee?—The members.

952. The members are men in the locality?—Yes. In some parishes there is no one but the parish priest.

953. Please don't give us extreme cases; what is the normal constitution of the parish committee?—The chief minister of such denomination, the County Councillor or District Councillor, the landlord or agent, and then six elected members.

954. Sir FRANCIS NOWATY.—And the medical officer?—Yes.

* See page 273.

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945. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—If they had no money given to them would they have had any driving power?—They would not.

946. Therefore the driving power is in the money they get?—That is the means of setting this in motion.

947. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Has there been any expenditure of public money in Ireland which within your knowledge effected a similar amount of good?—No. The good work done by the parish committees is enormous in comparison with the amount of the grant out of public funds.

948. Do you consider that the success of the parish committees is largely due to the fact that good men in each locality have the initiation of the scheme and are responsible almost wholly for carrying out these schemes?—It is so. They are unpaid members. There are two officials, the secretary and the supervisor, paid very little indeed, £5 or £6, or up to £10 a year. In fact it corresponds in structure with the constitution of the Board.

949. Have you a parish committee on your list which has this record, that work worth twenty-four times the amount of the grant has been done in the year?—Yes. There was a case in the County Donegal I don't suppose that anyone would expect that any parish would have a permanent endowment of £100 or £150 a year, but this system is intended for a temporary necessity, I suppose, and ultimately it would merge into a system of prizes. I don't recollect at the moment but I think a general system of prizes for improvement in agriculture was suggested about thirty or forty years ago, by Earl Spencer when Lord Lieutenant, but it failed for want of funds.*

950. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Had it any local organization such as in this case?—I think the funds were insufficient.

951. That would account for the failure?—But a prize system is free from objection. It can be carried on without experts.

952. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Municipal ratepayers are paying salaries to sanitary officers to carry out the Public Health Act under which there are regulations that no live stock be kept in the houses?—That is a fact.

953. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is it not a fact that the local authority cannot grant assistance as a parish committee can?—Yes. They have no money to assist.

954. Therefore they cannot be blamed for not carrying out the work of the parish committee?—No. It would be impossible to ask them to enforce the sanitary law.

Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—I was not in the least blaming the local authorities. I did not mean you to infer that in any way. All I wanted was to point out was that there was a paid staff towards the maintenance of which the ratepayers locally were obliged to contribute, and their work is now being done by parish committees in a much more effective way.

955. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But parish committees could not work without funds at their disposal?—No. It is a matter of money.

956. Mr. O'KEEFE.—If an attempt were made to enforce the sanitary laws where would the people of a one-roomed house without out-offices put their stock?—That is the difficulty. If there was no one to assist them with money as this Board has done the country would be helpless.

957. As a matter of fact it would be impossible to enforce the sanitary law?—It is impossible.

958. Are not the sanitary officers generally contented to town?—By law it extends over the whole country, but practically it is confined to towns.

* See the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, Vol. XXII, 1877. "The Prize System as applied to Small Farmers in Ireland," by Professor Biddis. The Scheme was in operation at least five years.

The Commission adjourned.

THIRD PUBLIC SITTING.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 1906.

AT 10.30 O'CLOCK A.M.

At 35, Dawson-street, Dublin.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUDLEY, G.C.V.O. (Chairman); The Right Hon. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL, G.C.B.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMER, K.C.M.G.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; CONOR O'KEEFE, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. F. W. D. MITCHELL further examined.

950. The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Mitchell, what head of your evidence were you at when we left off?—I was at the end of the purchase of crabs, number seven.

951. Since Saturday have you looked over the books?—I have.

952. Is there any point of this that you wish to raise?—I would ask permission to give two explanations on points on which you wished for a little more information.

953. Then you go to the operations of the Board of Agriculture?—In the Board's Thirteenth Report they gave a summary showing the extent of their operations under the head of agriculture since 1891, and after 1st March, 1904, the work was transferred to the Department of Agriculture, who undertook it on the Board agreeing to pay £8,000 a year. The question of transfer will come up under the head of the Board's relations with the Department of Agriculture. If you wish I will postpone saying anything more about it till I come to that. The next head is Fisheries.

954. The grants and loans will also come under that head?—As Mr. O'Brien will deal with the question of loans, and Mr. Green has prepared a very full memorandum for the Commission on the fisheries, it is perhaps only necessary for me to refer to one or two matters. One is the sum total of the results attained in the districts between Galway and the north of Donegal by the development of the fisheries since 1891. In 1891 the fishing was carried on in a very primitive and inefficient manner, but the Board developed these fisheries on that part of the coast.

955. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What part of the coast are you speaking of?—From Galway Bay round the coast of Mayo and Donegal as far as Lough Foyle.

956. Was that the whole extent of the coast?—No, sir; not quite. When the Board commenced their operations the southern part, in Cork and Kerry did not require much assistance from the Board except in the way of piers and loans for boats and nets. The fishing had been thoroughly established for many years.

957. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—The information covers the coast district between Galway and Lough Foyle?—It does; the fisheries actually established by the Board. In the herring fishery that was first established by the Board the amount paid to the fishermen has been £45,151. In the herring fishery the amount paid to fishermen has been £189,955.

958. Mr. BRYCE.—That is as wages?—For fish.

959. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Give me the first figure.—I had not time to write it down!—In the herring fishery the amount paid to fishermen was £45,151.

960. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Do you mean to say that the Board acted as purchasers?—No; only at the beginning. They bought fish in the first few years only, when they were nursing the fishery.

961. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Then you mentioned another fishery than?—The herring fishery. This figure, £189,955, was for herrings purchased by buyers other than the Board.

970. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—Then it was not a grant from the Board?—Oh, no; it was the produce of the fishery established by the Board.

971. The CHAIRMAN.—Tell us what the system is, shortly, so as to make that clear. I mean how does it happen that the Board are in a position to give that amount of money to the fishermen?—The Board did not pay this. The Board in the first instance, for a few years, bought the fish and sent it to the English markets—that is, in the case of the spring mackerel fishery. They then, as soon as they found that the fishery was established, left it in the hands of the merchants who bought the fish from the fishermen and sent it on their own account to England.

972. When you used the words just now, "the amount given to the fishermen," what you mean is the amount earned by the fishermen?—Yes; when I said "paid to the fishermen" I did not mean paid by the Board.

973. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That excludes the fish bought and sold by the Computed Districts Board?—No, sir; this is the grand total from the beginning.

974. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Did they make a loss by it?—The Board, I think, generally lost something, but of this total a very small portion passed through the Board's hands. They established the fishery, and as soon as it was in a stronger position, able to be carried on on commercial lines by dealers, the Board left it in the hands of the merchants.

975. But there was a loss?—The Board generally lost something by the transaction. Then as to the herring fishery. In the herring fishery the amount was £189,955.

976. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Over how many years?—The last eight years.

977. Mr. BRYCE.—You said, I think before that that excludes any purchases by the Board, of herrings?—That figure does, the £189,955.

978. Were there any purchases by the Board of herrings, just at the start?—There may have been at the start.

979. To a small amount?—Yes.

980. You have not got that amount?—I do not appear to have that in the general results that I have here. I have it under three heads; first of all the mackerel purchased by buyers other than the Board, that is the first return, £45,151—this excludes what passed through the Board's hands, it is mackerel purchased by persons other than the Board. Then there is the £189,955; and then the spring mackerel fishery, in which the Board carried on the business at the commencement; and the general result of that is that the amount paid was £72,301.

981. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Paid by the Board?—Only at the beginning by the Board; later by the merchants.

982. Perhaps that includes the £45,151?—No, sir; it does not. The first return is mackerel purchased by buyers other than the Board, summary of report of results of mackerel fishery during the autumn and winter seasons.

983. Autumn and winter. The other was the spring?

* See Returns handed in by the Rev. W. B. Green, p. 345, and his evidence.

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904. The CHAIRMAN.—Those figures will be banded in.

905. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—I am still a little confused. I want to get the total sum paid to the fishermen. You have given us three items, and you say there is another item which you have not got, that is to say?—Herrings bought by the Board. I will get that. I don't think that is included. It will be a very small amount.

906. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Those figures, the member figures, that you have given us include all mackerel purchased by the Board?—Include everything, in the first instance £28,131 paid by buyers other than the Board, in autumn and winter, and £73,301 bought by the Board and others at the spring fishery.

907. That is only for the spring?—Only for the spring.

908. In regard to winter and autumn mackerel fishing, did the Board as well as outside buyers finance the fishermen?—did the Board buy anything from the fishermen?—The Board in the earlier years did some work in the autumn and winter.

909. Do those three statements then deal with payments made to the fishermen by mackerel other than the Board?—These three statements?—The first.

910. With regard to those two first statements, did the Board also pay anything to fishermen for fish?—I think outside these returns there were small amounts in earlier years that the Board paid.

911. The CHAIRMAN.—That is what we want to find out, and perhaps if you would speak to Mr. Green as that point Mr. Green will be able to tell us in his evidence?—Mr. Green will have this summary, and I will have the additional figures that the Commission wish to have, added to it. There is one other point, the number of fishing boats. A Parliamentary return has been issued of the fishing boats built for or built by or ordered by the Congested Districts Board and the Department of Agriculture. The Congested Districts Board understood the order to relate only to large boats, that is only to large deck boats, and their return showed that they had ordered or built 150 large boats, the average price being from £175.*

912. Sir JAMES CONNOR.—That would be by both Boards?—No, sir, by the Congested Districts Board, only, but the Department of Agriculture understood the order to relate to all boats, and they included all small boats, open row boats of every kind. Their total number of boats is 383, but they are almost all small boats, of which the Board took no account. They had provided hundreds of small open boats, and as they have taken no account of them in this return, the two returns are on a different basis.

913. Mr. BRYCE.—Would it not be possible to get a return. If there are hundreds of them they must have reached to a considerable amount, and it would be interesting to know what the Board paid—could you get that?—The return asked for was the number of fishing boats built for, and the new fishing boats purchased by the Congested Districts Board, the description, tonnage, price, where built, and the dates of their construction. All those details for open row boats would be a most voluminous return.

914. We would not want the total—if you had the sum actually spent in these small boats?—I could get the sum and the number.

915. The CHAIRMAN.—What is the use of these small open row boats—are they used for fishing?—A great deal of the fishing near the shore is still carried on by open boats. Currahs are still used.

916. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—That is the coarser and shabby fishing?—A great deal of the long line fishing still.

917. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And the herring fishing?—And the herring fishing.

918. The CHAIRMAN.—How many big boats did you say?—The Congested Districts Board have ordered 150 large boats, some built in Ireland, some in Scotland, and some in the Isle of Man.

919. Do you know how many of those 150 boats are in commission at this moment?—The whole of them except two or three that were wrecked. I have not the numbers, but it was two or three.

920. Is there any single case in which a boat has been given to fishermen or lent to fishermen that is no longer made use of, but simply banded up and not used?—No. I do not think there is any boat actually banded. If a borrower has not paid off his loan the Board would take up that boat and re-sell it. If he

has paid off his loan, of course the Board would take no further account of the boat. It is possible in some cases of those who have paid off their loans that a boat might be derelict or worn out, but we have no record of any such case, and it is not likely, because those are the most energetic men who have paid off their loans.

921. There are cases, are there not, where people have taken over a boat that you built for them, but have got tired of the fishing and have abandoned the attempt?—The Board provided some boats on the share system for the men of Achill, and two years ago five crews abandoned their boats, but they have since been re-sold through the agency of Father White at Achill, re-sold to crews on the island, or in the neighbourhood; but the Board have still several boats on their hands that have not been re-sold. They were used on the share system.

922. That is my point. Then the Board have got a certain amount of boats now on their hands?—They have a few.

923. Which have been abandoned by the former crews, and which they have not been able to dispose of?—Yes, there are a few. They are being rapidly disposed of. But I should explain that the Board lose on a transaction of that kind, for if a boat is abandoned the Board have to fit it out and repair it, and sell it generally at a reduced price.

924. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Why were they abandoned if the fishing was successful?—The fishing was not very successful at Achill. The crews were not accustomed to fishing at night, as they had to do in mackerel fishing. It was new to them. They are most of these migratory labourers.

925. The CHAIRMAN.—In those cases where inexperienced fishermen have a boat was there not always a suffering of experienced fishermen brought round from the East Coast?—The Board provide an instructor, an experienced man, either an Arklow man or a Cork man, or in many cases a Scotch fisherman.

926. Only one for each boat?—One.

927. Are you sure of that?—In two cases in the south of Connemara there were two instruction boats for the special purpose of endeavouring to engage the South Connemara people in fishing, and in those cases where they were very inexperienced and did not take it up very heartily, the Board provided two instructors.

928. Was not that the case in Malinbeg and Achill?—I don't remember that two instructors were employed there.

929. Because I have myself heard in Malinbeg allegations made by the local men that the boat has not been successful because the instructors would not go out in the bad weather; then the instructors say that it is the men?—Instances of that kind are rare to come, but the Board have arranged to provide additional supervision and inspection on the coast of the County Galway in order to prevent the possibility of that sort of thing.

930. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—What do you call a crew of one of those boats?—Generally a crew of six.

931. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is the policy, Mr. Mishell, to give boats gratuitously for these people, and that afterwards they shall provide their own boats, or does the Congested Districts Board mean to carry on this system of fishing indefinitely?—The loan system will be carried on indefinitely, as it has been for a great number of years.

932. Do you contemplate a time when the fishermen, after having had the use of a boat for some time, will be afterwards able to supply their own boats?—In a few cases; in the case of shore boats in the County Donegal, where there has been, and there is, a successful fishery, in five or six cases the men have paid off the debt to the Board, and the boat belongs to them.

933. And now this boat is in their possession?—And in some cases they utilise money to their credit and get a new boat on their own account.

934. How many cases of that do you know?—I think five or six crews have lately obtained new boats.

935. And better boats, I presume?—New boats and better boats, but I could get an exact statement about that.

936. So that these cases will be really a test of the value of your system?—Well, it depends of course, to a very great extent on the success of the fishery. In North Donegal particularly the herring fishery has been uniformly successful for ten years or more.

937. Of course the object of the Board will be to encourage fishing at the present time with the hope

* See p. 253.

† The number of open boats supplied by the Congested Districts Board was 2,476, and the total cost was £25,145.

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that the people themselves will carry on the fishing afterwards?—Yes, certainly, that is always the Board's intention, that they will assist and nurse the fishery, and provide instruction so long as it is necessary, but ultimately, no doubt, the only system that would be contemplated permanently would be the loan system that provides men with loans for the purchase of boats.

1017. Why do you contemplate that if the people are in a position to get their own boats?—There will always be new fishermen, young men and new crews, who would not have the money to buy their own boats. It is hardly probable that the population will be so well off as to be able to buy their own boats.

1018. The fishing would be carried on by a combination of people who had capital of their own, who had cutted their capital?—That time, I am afraid, is rather far distant.

1019. Is not it clear that they would where there would be individual owners of boats?—Where there is a prosperous fishery, that is just possible. These things may happen. Any man who had made money by fishing or by any other industry might buy a boat and go on for fishing as a speculation.

1020. But do you foresee a time when it will be possible for the Board to withdraw and allow the industry to stand on its own feet?—Certainly, sir, except, of course, in regard to the provision of capital, for loans for the purchase of boats.

1021. Is not that the essential part of the whole thing, that they will be able to do that for themselves?—The providing of boats?

1022. Yes, to provide boats?—I do not think it is probable.

1023. Mr. BAKER.—You don't think that as regards individuals, but as regards the industry as a whole?—Yes.

1024. Loans would always be wanting for the continuous development of the business?—Yes.

1025. But there would be individuals who had accumulated capital, who would be prepared to put money into new boats?—Yes. I suppose in the south of Ireland, just as on the coasts of England and Scotland there are often men who have made money and go into the fishing as a business.

1026. At Cape Clear, for instance, they are quite independent of loans, and they buy their own boats. The thing has been done for a good many years, and they buy an expensive class of boats up to forty or fifty tons at a cost of £500 or £700?—It is quite possible that any man, such as you refer to, might apply to the Department of Agriculture for a loan, even if he had money of his own. Knowing that he can get a loan from the Department, he may apply for a loan.

1027. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You have said, Mr. Mitchell, that a large number of instructors have been employed on the coast to teach fishing?—Yes.

1028. Is it the fact that the fishermen in those dock boats have contributed largely towards the expense of their own instruction?—Yes. The Board make a charge. They allow them two seasons of any fishing instruction free, and afterwards they make a slight charge. Each instructor costs the Board about £2 a week regularly during the fishing season—of course, it is not all the year round. The Board generally employ about seventy instructors, and the expense has been hitherto between £4,000 and £5,000 per annum. The fishermen now repay about £1,200. In the last financial year instruction was provided for sixty-seven dock boats and five loan boats, and the cost was £2,500, of which £1,250 was repaid, leaving a net cost of only £1,250, which is a very satisfactory result. The Board have been hoping for improvement in that direction since they first commenced the system.

1029. When you say that you don't look forward to a period when the fishing population will be independent of loans, is it the whole coast that you have in your mind rather than particular spots on the coast?—The coast generally, my lord.

1030. You don't think it likely that the success of the fishing in any particular district will be so great that through co-operative societies, or otherwise in the future, it is likely that the fishing population will be able to provide their own boats and gear?—It may, my lord, but, of course, one has to keep in mind that if there is a very productive fishery at any date the

competition would be very great. About one hundred boats from Scotland, more or less, arrive every season, as you are, no doubt, aware, at Downing's Bay, and, of course, that is a very considerable factor in the prospects of the Irish fishermen.

1031. Have you any remark to make about the way in which the fishermen have been met on that coast about Downing's Bay?—It is most successful. A return is given by the Board each year in their annual report, showing how the cost of each boat is being repaid by the crews, and it is progressing most satisfactorily.

1032. Along that coast many of the instructors are Scotchmen. Are you able to say whether the feeling of the local fishermen towards their Scotch instructors, when their instructors happen to be Scotchmen, is a good feeling?—Admirable.

1033. Is it the fact that the Board tried to employ Irish instructors whenever it can?—They are doing so.

1034. Is it also the fact that the Board endeavours to build as many large boats as it can on the Irish coast?—They do, my lord. This return, which I have mentioned, shows that out of the 150 boats—

1035. I think you need not mind at this stage?—I will get the numbers, my lord.*

1036. While anxious to have boats built for the Irish fishermen on the Irish coast, has it been the policy of the Board when shoals of fish are coming in, to secure suitable boats for the fishermen wherever the Board can find them?—On any emergency of that kind the Board try at once in the cheapest market.

1037. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do these fishermen follow the herring fishing round the coast from one part to the other?—Yes, they go from the southern part of Donegal northwards to Kinsaleagh, and on to Downing's Bay.

1038. Do they go out of Ireland?—About a dozen boats go from Teelin northwards.

1039. Do they go out of Ireland at all?—No.

1040. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—They do not visit the Scotch coast as the Scotch boats visit the Irish coast?—No.

1041. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Might it be said that the development of such a fishing industry on the Irish coast as the herring fishery is almost too recent to justify the fishermen to go far from home?—It is, my lord. There are so many inexperienced men, and in addition to that, they know that the fishermen on the other side of the Channel are overdone. The fact that so many boats from the other side come to Ireland shows that it would be a failure for any of ours to go there.

1042. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is not it the fact that they make large sums of money in this country and in Scotland, for instance, the herring fishing this year is well known to have brought some fishermen upwards of £1,000?—That is for one boat?

1043. Yes, for one boat?—Steam drifters.

1044. Yes, and sailing boats, and, perhaps, £2,000 some of them?—There are no steam-drifters owned by these fishermen in the north of Ireland.

1045. But do you think that in process of time these fishermen will acquire large boats and participate in the herring fishery all round the coast of Britain, which is really the way to make it pay?—Mr. Green will be able to give the Commission information on that point. My own impression is that as there is such an enormous fishing population on the other side, on the coasts of England and Scotland, many of whom for many generations have been fishermen all their lives, that they will reap all the harvest.

1046. There is a chance for overwork. We would be very glad to see them in Scotland?—The Scotchmen coming into Ireland, of course, defeat something from the earnings of the Irishmen.

1047. But all the subsidiary industries would be carried on in Ireland, the curing of the fish and so on, so that would be a considerable item to Ireland, a considerable source of income to the Irish people?—If the Irish boats went to England.

1048. No, but over seas, if the Scotch boats come to Ireland?—No, because the Scotch boats bring their own crews with them, and they take away the fish, so that I don't know that there is much money gained here.

1049. But the process of curing will be carried on in Ireland too?—Carried on to a great extent by their own people.

*Out of a total of 150 docked boats 72 were built in Ireland. See p. 353.

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1090. If they get fresh labour as cheap?—The fact is that they bring over a good many cures.

1091. That is, of course, in consequence of the absence of experienced Irish people?—Yes.

1092. And when they obtain this experience they will be able to take the place of the Scotch people?—They will be quite willing, I have no doubt.

1093. Sir JOHN CHURCHMAN.—I presume that Mr. Green would be in a much better position to tell us about this?—Yes.

1094. So I won't trouble you with many questions, but there is one figure that you have given us, a certain figure of money spent in promoting the fishing industry in the districts from Galway to Lough Foyle?—Yes.

1095. Can you tell me what may fairly be put approximately as the maritime population of that district, can you give me any idea at all of what is the population on the coast from Galway to Lough Foyle, that the money has been spent amongst?—Mr. Green has lately prepared a map for this Commission, in which he has drawn a line on the inner side of the townlands that abut on the sea, but I am not aware that he has had the population extracted. But it can easily be done and the figures obtained readily.

1096. Following that up, have you got in your Department a statistical branch, to collect that sort of information necessary to the framing of a policy?—Each department keeps its own statistics.

1097. There is no general collector of statistics which might be put before the Congested Districts Board in order to give them some guidance in framing general principles of policy?—They always obtain information from the department concerned whenever they want information in connection with any new scheme.

1098. But there is no concentration of statistical information of a broad character in the office of the Board?—They have never had any difficulty in getting almost immediately any information that they required. It has happened that this figure, the population along the fringe of the coast line, has never, I believe, been extracted from the Census returns, but it can be done in an hour.

1099. But the money has been spent and the principle adopted in dealing with the district without knowledge of the numbers of the people to be dealt with?—Of course the Board had full knowledge of the population they were dealing with in each part of the coast, though they were not, as a matter of fact, enumerated.

1100. Mr. O'KEEFE.—If I were to ask you what was the population of the congested districts in the West of Ireland interested in the fishing industry along the coast could you give me an answer?—I can tell you the population of the congested districts, which is about half a million. The population who are interested in fisheries are assumed to be the population of the townlands that abut upon the sea, and that particular figure I have just undertaken to give though I cannot give it now.

1101. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would it total 100,000 people?—Of the fringe of the maritime fringe?

1102. Yes?—No, I think it would be far less. It would not be a fifth of the whole population.

1103. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You have said that you only count as likely to be interested in fishing the population of the townlands immediately upon the coast?—Yes.

1104. But what is to prevent men coming from eight or ten miles inland?—One practical reason is that if they own boats they do not like to leave them out of sight miles away, and no one guarding or looking after them. Fishing people like to have their boats under their own eye.

1105. Not the whole crew—the crew is fixed?—In the case of the Downings Bay fishery I am sure that some of the fishermen come from a considerable distance. Mr. Duffin, who knows the crews, will be able to tell you what proportion of the men of the Downings Bay fishery come from any distance.

1106. What public department is charged with the supervision of those fisheries?—The supervision?

1107. Yes?—The Congested Districts Board is charged with the supervision throughout the congested area.

1108. And elsewhere?—The Department of Agriculture has all the non-congested districts; but the Department, having got the powers of the Inspectors of Fisheries, have legal powers for certain purposes all

round the coast of the whole of Ireland, the powers of the Congested Districts Board being more for the development of the fishery, not for its regulation by any by-laws.

1109. Mr. BAYNE.—It is under the authority of the Department, for instance, that trawlers are looked after?—Yes, and foreign vessels prevented from fishing within three miles of the coast.

1110. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—Has it ever happened that fishermen have found it difficult to dispose of their catch owing to want of communication, cartage, and so on?—Yes.

1111. Would you prefer that I should ask you upon that point or that I should reserve my question for Mr. Green?—Mr. Green will be able to give you a more satisfactory reply.

1112. It is an important matter, that of communication?—I know that the fishermen often have to haul their fish carted round. When there is a large catch of herrings the fish are carted round the country and sold at a very low price.

1113. There is another point. I don't know whether you think Mr. Green should answer it. It is very necessary that there should be a supply of ice in certain localities for the preservation of fish?—As the spring haddock fishing.

1114. Spring mackerel fish, and if there is no provision made for that the question of monopoly arises. A particular trader might have ice, and he might to that way demand his own price. Would you prefer that that question should be reserved for Mr. Green?—Yes.

1115. The CHAIRMAN.—Sir John Colenso has asked you have you any idea of the number of people amongst whom this money has been spent to develop the fishing. Although the full number of the population may not be available at this moment, the Census return, I think, does give for each county the number of people engaged in fishing?—Yes, it does, my lord, but of course they are only engaged in fishing part of their time. It is not like the fishing population of the east coast of England and Scotland, who are fishing all the year round. These men are most of the year farmers.

1116. Yes, but that very class of partial farmers and partial fishermen would presumably be the first to benefit from any scheme of fishery development like what you have; is not that so?—Yes; those all round the fringe of the coast are those who would benefit most and principally.

1117. And certainly, therefore, they would all come in under the present Census return, these partially engaged in fishing?—I believe the Census return gives those who are partially engaged.

1118. So that you have the thing approximately?—Yes, the figure could be obtained readily.*

1119. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—The Census would give the number of men actually employed, not the number of the coast population who might be employed if the fishery should develop?—Yes, quite so.

The CHAIRMAN.—Quite so. The appeal to the census would give those people who are engaged at present in rather primitive methods but desire, I understand, to improve these methods. I presume that the people who would first benefit by the spending of money to improve the methods would be those very poor people who came into this very class.

1120. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In connection with the herring fishery, Mr. Mitchell, has it fallen under your observation that earlier, living on far inland or eight or ten miles from the coast have benefited by the circulation of the money?—Yes; they make very large sums on many parts of the coast; and with reference to this matter of population, I would mention that in the Board's annual return every year they have given the number of men and boys engaged in the fishing, and that appears part of Mr. O'Kelly's question. In connection with this return, in which £25,000 was paid to fishermen, about 2,500 men and boys were engaged in the fishing.

1121. Sir JOHN COLSENS.—Does that mean engaged in that branch of the fishing industry—catching of fish—or those engaged in the operations, subsequent to their being caught?—No, they are a separate body. Only 790 people were engaged in the operations of shore as crews and carrying fish to market.

1122. These figures that you have just given us, Mr. Mitchell, are they applicable to the district between Galway and Lough Foyle, or does it mean the

*The Census of 1901 gave 5,737 fishermen in the six maritime counties and 321 farmers engaged in fishing. This represents a population of about 30,000.

side operations all round the coast?—As I explained, the Board, when they were established, found the houses in Kerry and Cork fully developed and flourishing, and beyond building piers and issuing loans for boats and nets, and loans for barrel-making, the Board have not found it necessary to do anything else. But on the other part of the coast they created the fishing in fact.

1882. Therefore those figures exclude Cork and Kerry, and those other districts that the Board has not served?—They do.

1883. The CHAIRMAN.—There is only one other question I would ask. You told us just now that there are none of those boats still unused in the hands of the Board?—Yes.

1884. Can you tell me how many boats out of the 180?—The Board have at the present moment only two boats out of thirteen which they had for sale.

1885. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—They are deck boats?—Yes, large decked boats.

1886. The CHAIRMAN.—Are those boats in Achill?—They are now lying at Clifden.

1887. Were they Achill boats?—They were formerly used at Achill and Blackhead.

1888. And how many of the thirteen boats, you have succeeded in disposing of were formerly Achill boats?—I believe they were all used in the Blackhead fishery.

1889. And therefore every case where a boat has been abandoned, and the Board has had to re-sell it, has happened in the Blackhead fishery?—The Board having developed a very flourishing mackerel fishery at Aran in 1882, and then at Cliggan, farther south, tried some years ago to establish another sort of Achill, or rather outside Achill, for the benefit of the Achill and Reishuelt population. That fishery did not pay. It would have always paid a few boats, but did not repay the Board's outlay. The Board had to run a steamer from Blackhead Point to meet the railway near Achill Sound and provide ice, so that there was very considerable outlay every year, and in addition to that the fishery was not very successful. Then Mr. Green met the fishermen, and they agreed that they would rather fish from Cliggan—that is, land their fish at Cliggan.

1890. Was the failure due to the lack of fish or to the lack of enterprise among the fishermen?—It was really due to lack of enterprise amongst the fishermen, but chiefly to the fishing not being good enough.

1891. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Was it abandoned on account of a bad year or because the fish fell off so much?—I have a return that shows the result. Blackhead fishery began in 1890. The value of the fish, the most paid to the fishermen in that year was £250; next year, £280; next year, £350; next year only £45. It was a blank that year; it failed. Next year, £370, and next year £267. So that there was a considerable gain to the people; but the cost to the Board was greater than the gain to the fishermen would justify.

1892. Were the boats abandoned in the year when the fish had disappeared?—No, they were abandoned later.

1893. What was the receipt in the year in which they abandoned them?—I think that in this year they received £267, but of course the share of each boat is not given here, and the sum paid would be £267 total; but the average per boat is not given.

1894. Mr. KAVANAGH.—So that they had six years' experience of the fishing before they abandoned the boats?—Some had; five crews abandoned the boats.

1895. It was not due to only one bad year?—No. Mr. Green met the fishermen, and it was arranged that the Board would give up the fishing; that is, no longer provide the steamer and the ice, and that the new fishing boats would fish from the southern part of Cliggan.

1896. The CHAIRMAN.—I thought you said that thirteen boats were abandoned?—There were thirteen boats taken up from the crews which had formerly been worked under the share system, but the men had not abandoned the boats. The Board had made firm arrangements and agreed to take them up. In the five cases the men left the boats on the shore and went away.

1897. What was the object of the Board making firm arrangements? Did they do it because they thought those boats would be abandoned, too?—No; but because the fishing was not sufficiently successful, and partly because it was not easy to find sufficient crews. Some men would leave, and so on, and a full crew could not be obtained. There is only one other

point, sir, I would like to mention, and that is the result of the Board's barrel-making industry, which is connected with the fishing. The gross receipts from barrel-making operations were £19,500; the expenditure, including the cost of instruction of apprentices and the management, was £19,300. That is on the very large sum of nearly £20,000 the excess of expenditure over receipts was only £200. It is a very satisfactory result of a great many years' working.

1898. Will you put in all these returns?—Yes.*

1899. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—Has the Board now withdrawn from the barrel-making industry?—No. The Board are still carrying it on at Bartonport and Downing's Bay.

1900. Is there any chance of private enterprise taking the place of the Board?—There is in Kerry, where the Board supplies barrel-making material bought in Norway and Scotland.

1901. Do you think the time has come for the tentative adoption of such a scheme at Bartonport or Downing's Bay?—If it pays the Board of course it is quite possible that a merchant or trader might take up the work.

1902. No effort has yet been made to try that?—No.

1903. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Is there a disposition on the part of the Board to encourage any apprentice getting out of his apprenticeship to set up for himself in barrel-making?—The Board have given instruction to coopers from the southern counties on the Board's coopers in County Donegal, and have paid their expenses; they employ young coopers after their apprenticeship is over. But they have done nothing to start them on their own account as independent coopers, barrel-makers.

1904. Is that the direction towards which the work is tending?—Yes, my lord, it is.

1905. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Of course all over Ireland the necessities of the butter trade up to a recent date required the making of firkins, which is analogous to barrel-making, and therefore I presume that in those districts there were people who certainly understood generally the barrel-making. You did not start an absolutely new thing? You only diverted the manufacture and construction of firkins?—No, sir. I don't think that that is it. There were no barrels made. As a matter of fact they paid a high price for imported barrels.

1906. But there were firkins made?—No doubt there were firkins made all over the country, but it is more of an inland industry. As a matter of fact the parties that carried on the fishing in the South imported barrels until the Board gave instructions to the coopers and supplied them with materials on credit, and so that way they led to the establishment of an independent and self-supporting industry.

1907. But the real existence of the cooper in Ireland and these places was the demand for firkins, was it not?—As far as I am aware there are two totally different industries carried on in different places, one being an inland industry and the other a sea-coast industry.

1908. And the artisans, as the man who makes the firkins, would be much quicker than, and get hold so much sooner of the making of barrels than the man who was not acquainted with firkin making?—As a matter of fact, the man who made the firkins did not supply the wants of the fish merchants.

1909. And did not adapt himself to their wants?—No. Of course distance enters into the question. The man who made the firkins would probably be a long way inland.

1910. Mr. BRYCE.—From your experience, do you think that barrel-making would pay?—It would. From the Board's experience it would pay. It pays those men who are engaged in the industry in Cork and Kerry, and if the Board, as Sir Anthony suggested, gave up the industry on the North, it would pay private individuals to carry it on.

1911. The CHAIRMAN.—If the Board were approached by somebody who was willing to undertake if the Board would be only too quick to retire?—No doubt.

1912. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is barrel-making associated in Ireland with the curing, as it is in Scotland?—It is.

1913. That is to say, it is the man who buys the herrings and cures them who also makes the barrels?—No, he does not. He either brings his barrels to Ireland as they used to do or buys the barrels on the spot as he wants them.

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*The statement IV. p. 293.
†An error has been made in an ex-opponent to enable him to counterbalance on his own account.

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1114. Was this a fresh industry?—Yes, quite.

1115. You are aware probably that in Scotland it is almost exclusively in the hands of the curers. They keep their own coppers and make their own barrels?—It is not so here.

1116. But the tendency latterly is to make barrels by machinery and establish separate factories?—They are not made here by machinery.

1117. In the meantime the industries are not associated in Lreland?—No.

1118. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Might I ask are not the curers in Scotland distinct from the fishermen?—Yes.

1119. Has that stage been reached yet here?—The curers are merchants.

1120. I understood you to say the fishermen brought the cures from Scotland?—They brought vessels to clean the fish.

1121. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—By every I should the persons who brought?—I meant the persons employed in the operations of cleaning the fish, salting them and packing them.

1122. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—In the sums paid to fishermen you included then the sums paid to people for cleaning the fish?—Yes, but in a separate estimate.

1123. They are not included in the figures you gave in?—No. I could give the Commission general statistics, but I am aware that the Rev. W. S. Green has prepared an elaborate statement for the Commission, and it might be, perhaps, a saving of time to the Commission if I left it to him, and Mr. O'Brien will deal with the same under all heads.

1124. CHAIRMAN.—I think you have something to say with regard to roads and ports?—If you allow me I will ask permission to explain a statement which I made on Saturday, when I said the Board were continuing their expenditures on roads. I did not mean to say that they were still constructing roads through their engineering staff. They have long ceased to do so, but if they think there is a strong case for the making of a road in any locality, the Board are as ready as ever to make a contribution towards it. They generally offer the County Council half the cost, and sometimes two-thirds. I think it probable that if the Board could obtain a small increase of funds for this purpose they would make more liberal contributions in such cases. Ports and made from a long list of about 200 works, which cannot be carried out owing to the want of funds. Many years experience now show that the County Councils cannot afford to bear such a large share of the works that are proposed, and unless the Board are placed in a position to defray in all cases two-thirds or three-fourths of the cost, there will be little probability of a large number of useful works being carried out. The fisheries require more landing facilities, and the position of many small landholders in the congested districts, who have no road to give access to turf banks, or even to public roads, appeals strongly for assistance. I think that the Board should be able to spend £20,000 a year on works, as they proposed to do in most of their former annual estimates.

1125. Sir JAMES CONNORS.—When the Congested Districts Board offers to make a road on condition that the County Council pay half or any portion of the capital cost, is it stipulated by any condition that the County Council subsequently maintain the road?—The Board now always offer the County Council a perpetuity of the road, leaving the county to bear the other portion, even if it is only a shilling presentment, so that the future charge of the maintenance rests on the county.

1126. The responsibility for its maintenance automatically under the arrangement, rests upon the county?—Yes.

1127. Beyond that there is no guarantee that the county will keep these roads up?—By law they have to, if they make a presentment for it.

1128. The CHAIRMAN.—Do the Board make conditions as to where a road will go?—Yes. The Board always consider that, and have an inspection made. Either some members of the Board inspect the site, or one of their officers or their engineering staff, or one of Mr. Deane's officers.

1129. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is not the engineer of the County Council always associated with the officers of the Board in allotting the road?—Yes. As it is always arranged with the County Council, the County Surveyor, of course, is consulted.

1130. Mr. BAYLE.—You are speaking now of roads outside the Board's own estates. Of course inside

their own estates they have spent large sums of money?—Quite so.

1131. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Of course these roads outside the Board's estate are in relief of the County Council?—They are practically in relief of local rates.

1132. And those local rates are levied solely on the congested districts?—No; it may be either on the county-at-large or on the rural districts.

1133. So that the grant by the Congested Districts Board may be partially in relief of the rates of the people in non-congested districts?—Partially, but, of course, if the Board did not give this assistance a road would never be made.

1134. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—I am afraid if the Board is not given its assistance and its encouragement in the County Council, they may not make the road worth out it.

1135. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Are you quite sure you understood the question?—Sir Francis has referred from your answer that the contribution from the Congested Districts Board was in aid of rates in a non-congested area. Do the Board ever contribute to the construction of a road which does not run through a congested district?—No, sir, it does not.

1136. Therefore the contribution is in aid of rates levied in congested districts, and not outside congested districts?—The rate would be on the rural district, and part of that rural district might not be a congested district.

1137. The CHAIRMAN.—Of it might be a comparatively large charge, which, of course, would include some congested districts?—Yes.

1138. Mr. O'KELLY.—You could not mention a road partly constructed in a non-scheduled area and partly in a scheduled area?—There have been many. In those cases the Board generally inform applicants that they should apply to the Department of Agriculture for a grant corresponding to the Board's grant in assistance of the rates of the County Council.

1139. Sir JAMES CONNORS.—It is still public money, although reaching the locality through two public departments. That is all the difference?—Yes. But I ought to have said that the Board from the first considered that the want of communication and of access to markets was an enormous disadvantage throughout the whole congested districts, which are very scattered and very poor.

1140. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Can you say on these many rural districts within congested areas the greater portion of which are not congested?—Yes, there are.

1141. Are there many? I only want to know if there are many such?—There are many. I suppose there are 25 or 30.

1142. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In the supposition that these roads in the congested areas would never be constructed without the grant from the Congested Districts Board, the grant which the Board actually give is scarcely a relief to the taxpayers of the non-congested area?—The direct result of it, at least, is that it adds to the taxation.

1143. Do you observe that on the supposition that the road would not be constructed at all it would not be taxed on the non-congested area?—With out the Board's intervention the road would not be made, and by the Board's intervention the taxation falls on the whole area.

1144. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is not it the duty of the County Council to make the roads?—Yes, but, as in the case of the sanitary laws, there is often no money obtainable for carrying out these works. If they were carried out the rates would be so enormously increased that the charge on the poor population would be greatly added to.

1145. Mr. O'KELLY.—Are you aware, Mr. Mitchell, that in our county in the West some District Councils on several occasions unanimously agreed to withdraw all their proposals for new works, notwithstanding that they were very urgent, because proceeding with them would seriously increase the rates?—Yes, I am aware of that, Mr. O'KELLY. The Board have been informed so. In connection with the past raised by Sir Francis Mowat, I may mention that Memorandum C shows that there was a compromise arrived at between the Department and the Board under which the Department carried out agricultural schemes in rural districts, which were mainly non-congested, and the Board carried out schemes in districts which were mainly congested. The Board carried out about 15

for districts in Donegal—Dunfally, Glenties, Donagh, and Inishowen; in three in Galway—Oughter, Clifden, and Glenties; in three in Kerry—Glenties, Binn, and Kenmare. The rural districts administered by the Department mainly comprised some all those in Cork; 4 in Donegal; 1 in Kerry; that is 3 out of 6; the whole of Leitrim, the whole of Roscommon, and the whole of Sligo."

1143. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Did these schemes include roads?—That was for live-stock schemes. I only called to show how many divisions are mainly non-transported.

1144. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell. It is only this point, Mr. Mitchell. Is not it then your experience that the Board has frequently agreed to contribute towards the construction of roads in the congested districts, with the result that the County Councils are not found it possible or feasible to carry out the work, giving the contribution on their part that was necessary?—In a very large number of cases, my lord, we might almost say that a deadlock has occurred. Hardly any localities will now find themselves able to assist in carrying out these works, as Mr. Conner O'Donnell says, the increase of rates has prevented them.

1145. Mr. O'Kearney.—But the County Council, Mr. Mitchell, has been, in my opinion very generous. As we know the rural districts are poor. To give you a case in point the people in Belmullet, as you know, are poor. The County Council contributed £450, the cost of a bridge, to which the Congested Districts Board added £700.—Certainly.

1146. Thus relieving the local ratepayers?—Yes. The Board's annual reports show that these schemes justly contributed to by the County Council have been meeting every year. But as I said to Dr. O'Donnell about a deadlock occurred owing to the large number expended. Nothing has been expended on them owing to the reluctance of the County Councils to add to the rates, and that is the reason I suggested that if the Board had a little more money to devote to the purpose, the important question of roads might make some progress.

1147. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Has that reluctance of the local parties to increase the rates been greater since 1880 than before it?—It has been gradually increasing every year.

1148. What I mean was that there was a great transfer of authority in 1880 from the old grand jury to the County Council?—Yes.

1149. 1880. Is not it a fact that since that change has been more economy and more reluctance to spend than formerly?—Yes. But as a matter of fact I believe the rates generally have considerably increased.

1150. Also is it your opinion that the fact that two large two departments who have money to spend on these matters naturally causes the local authority to think that they had better do their work and pay for it than for the local authority to do the work themselves? Is not there something in that?—Yes. But in the other hand everybody must see that the rates are extremely high and so one can wonder at any County Council refusing to increase them.

1151. Are rates generally higher than they were all over the congested districts?—Yes.

1152. Who will give us information as to the actual fact of that?—Mr. Walker.

1153. Mr. O'Kearney.—Of course the expenditure that the County Councils have to make is much higher than the Grand Jury had to look for?—Yes.

1154. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Was the Grand Jury the authority when the present roads were made?—Before the Local Government Act of 1886 they had the work which is now discharged by the County Councils.

1155. The CHAIRMAN.—When you said there was a deadlock in regard to many works, did you mean works connected with roads and bridges?—Bridges and piers also.

1156. You had in your mind harbours, too?—Piers as well. The Boards have got in their offices a printed list, which is revised from time to time, of all these pending applications. They number about 200; and the amount—the estimated amount of money required to carry them out is £113,000, so that the amount of uncompleted applications is rather greater now than when the Board commenced. There is an arrangement in connection with works—though it isn't an important matter—between the two departments—the Department of Agriculture and the Board. At the beginning of last year it was arranged that the engineering staff should be transferred to the Department.

Previously the Department paid for the time of the engineering staff employed on their work, the officers being on the Board's books. Now that is reversed, the officers being on the books of the Department, and the Board pays to the Department for the time of the staff employed on their work. But I should add that the greater part of the time of the staff is still employed on the Board's work.

1157. What is the object of that?—It was considered by a Sub-Committee; and I think the impression the Board had—in fact I may say positively—the impression the Board had then was that the greater part of the time of the staff would be occupied on the Department's work, as they had a very large capital for fishery purposes and marine works, and that the Board's business would be on a minor scale; but, so far, it has not been so. The Board's work has been the heaviest.

1158. Mr. A. MacDONNELL.—Was it not in pursuance of the general policy of the time to prevent overlapping? Was it not the case that the Department's functions to some extent overlapped the Board's functions; and the Board's functions to some extent overlapped the Department's functions?—I don't think it entered into the matter.

1159. Did it not enter into the transfer to the Department of Agriculture of part of the Board's work?—The two things are on a very different footing. This was merely a Departmental arrangement for convenience. The other was chiefly owing to the fact that rates were levied on the congested districts for agricultural purposes.

1160. Was it not in pursuance of the general policy of concentrating the work of the Board on land purchase, migration, and transferring to the other Department that portion of the work which essentially belonged to it?—No, sir. The information that we have shows that it was merely a matter of convenience. It was an arrangement which has now been in force one year, and so far the officers are on the books of the Department and the Board are paying their share.

1161. The CHAIRMAN.—But if the arrangement previously was that the engineers remained on the staff of the Board and were used for the purpose of the new Department, you drew from the new Department the expenditure?—They paid.

1162. And now that the position is reversed there was no overlapping?—No, sir. It was a question of overlapping. The two Departments had their separate districts. Everything was entirely separate. The staff was working for the two, owing chiefly to the accident that Mr. Oliver was appointed engineer for the Department as well as for the Board. The arrangements then made were that at the end of the year the time devoted to the Department's work would be paid for by the Department.

1163. Then the sole object of the transfer was because, in the view of the Sub-Committee, more work was likely to be initiated by the new Department than by the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, as they had a far larger area in Ireland, and larger funds.

1164. And that therefore as the greater portion of the work in all probability would be initiated by the new Department, it was only fit and proper that they should have the immediate control of the engineering staff?—Yes. I think that was the idea.

1165. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Under the Act of 1881, had the Congested Districts Board recognised the duty of making roads?—They had a large discretion to improve the condition of the people by any means they thought fit.

1166. I see that certain powers were specified?—harbours, piers, fisheries, poultry, and so on, were specified, but roads were not specified. Had not Parliament in its mind the fact that the duty of making roads was already provided for?—No, sir; I do not think so. The Board, from the first, took up the question of roads, and made several very large and expensive roads, and contracted for others.

1167. I do not deny that was so. I only ask the question. I observe that in the Act various services are specified—piers, harbours, and industries, but not roads. I mention the matter to see if it was not considered that there was already provision for the making of roads by other authorities?—I think that is over-ridden by the wide commission given to the Board. They were to employ their funds for whatever purposes they thought necessary for the improvement of the districts.

1170. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—This included powers to make piers, harbours, and roads?—I don't

Sept. 18, 1904.

Mr. F. W. D. Mitchell

Sept. 16, 1906.

Mr. F. W. D.
Mitchell.

know exactly how it came about, but the Board had large powers.

The CHAIRMAN.—Those powers covered agriculture generally, including the work of aiding and developing agriculture.

1171. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I quite see that. I only want to know how it came about.—The Board had the widest possible discretion and instructions to use its large powers. The want of communications was one of the most serious disadvantages that this outlying population suffered from.*

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think it would be right to think that roads were specially exempted.

1172. The CHAIRMAN.—Have you anything to say about the steamer?—The question of abandoning the steamer was before the Board last year and was fully considered. A memorandum was drawn up by Mr. Green, in March, 1905, which satisfied the Board that it was advisable to retain the steamer. The memorandum is as follows:—

MEMORANDUM OF THE REV. W. S. GREEN, DATED
29th MARCH, 1905.

At last Board meeting I was asked to prepare a memorandum on the general utility of the *ss. Granowille* to the Board, and I now accordingly submit the following notes:—

When the Congested Districts Board began work on the west coast of Ireland a steamer was held to be essential. Without a steamer always at the disposal of the Board it was obvious that no systematic attention could be paid to numerous populated islands and other districts almost equally remote from ordinary lines of communication. At first a small steamer, the *Fingal*, was chartered. She had no cargo accommodation, and as the Board's curing stations multiplied, it was found that a steamer with cargo capacity should be obtained. The work of the Board in the first two years of its existence seemed to make fairly clear what the future necessities would be, and accordingly the Board decided to build a suitable vessel, and Mr. West, of Liverpool, was asked to prepare a design. Various members of the Board made suggestions as to what was desirable. The first design was discarded, a second design was adopted, and the *Granowille* was built at a cost of £10,285.

When she reached the west coast the Board were working fishing stations at about a score of sites. They were also building slips and small fishing piers from the south of Cork to the north of Donegal, and the *Granowille* had to carry cargoes of salt and barrels for the fishing stations, take up fish from them, deliver cement and building materials along the coast, and occasionally carry members of the Board, their engineers or inspectors, to examine into new applications or keep going the various enterprises to which the Board were committed. To her employment was added certain work connected with the Board's Agricultural Schemes. The *Granowille* was specially equipped for carrying cattle, and she did bring from Scotland several cargoes of bulls, &c., and she delivered at the islands each year stores for improving the breed of horses.

The aim of the Congested Districts Board in visiting fishing stations where no actual fish trade had previously existed, was to get the industry up to a standard that would induce fish merchants to come and take over the business.

This has now become an accomplished fact, and the Board no longer act as fish curers or fish merchants. They cannot, however, relax their interest in the more remote places, because, where the output is small and the facilities inferior to the more prosperous fishing centres down south, there is practically no competition between buyers, and a bad season might throw some of the poorer stations back on the Board's hands. The fact that the Board is in a position to resume work at the stations exercises a healthy influence on the trade. In Donegal the great success of the herring fishery has ensured ample competition; but, except at Cleggan, where as many as nine firms have been bidding against each other in the mackerel season, the fish trade is not yet large enough on the coasts of Mayo and Galway to ensure healthy competition at all the stations that it is most desirable to maintain.

In recent years applications were made from fishing centres in the south-west of Ireland for aid in developing the cooping industry, and so to secure for this country the profits on the supply of the thousands of barrels that are needed every year for the mackerel trade with America. Most of the barrels required were imported from Scotland or England. In the

South of Ireland a number of coopers, whose industry chiefly in making tubs for butter, were thrown out of work by the development of coopers and new methods of dealing with butter. These men had no experience in making fish barrels, which must be airtight, and special in other respects.

Mr. Duffie was asked to visit these coopers who lived near the fishing centres, and see what could be done. Acting on his advice, several of the younger coopers were sent from West Cork and Kerry to learn the special features of the fish barrel trade to the Board's coopers in Donegal. The expenses of a few of these, just outside the congested area, were provided by the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Duffie further reported that these coopers who felt competent to deal with fish barrels would be encouraged if material for making the barrels was provided on moderate terms, the men having no capital to purchase in the wholesale market. The Board issued him to some of these men, and the *Granowille* has carried many full cargoes of staves, two or three each year, from the east coast of Scotland, where delivery can be obtained or ship direct from Norway. A reasonable freight has been charged on the delivery at the ports where the coopers live, and a very considerable trade has been developed, to the benefit of the congested districts in the South and West, without in any way trespassing on the ordinary course of the shipping business. The trade at the Board's own coopers, which were established for educational purposes, has proved a great success, and have also to be provided by the *Granowille* with material, and the sale, amounting last year to 10,516 barrels, repays the cost of material, instruction, and the expenses of the *Granowille* while engaged in this special work. The coopers trained to make barrels are also available for employment by the fish curers, who must needs have coopers for heading up their fish barrels, re-cooping, and preparing for export. These coopers, who at first were chiefly Scotchmen, have, in many instances, been replaced by Irishmen.

In the boat-building industry the *Granowille* has also been of service in delivering the material at the places where the industry has been developed by the Board.

On the south coast, now that the Clyde Shipping Company's steamer has ceased to run, with a saving to the Board of £500 per annum, something further may have to be done to assist isolated districts in which the Board may become specially interested.

The numerous tours of inspection that have been made by members and officials of the Board has given them a knowledge of the circumstances under which the coast population live, and of their needs, which has been indispensable to the work of the Board, and which it is not likely would have been obtained in any other way.

The *Granowille* has often been utilized by Commissioners and by Government to great advantage, and if she were not there, steamers should have been chartered or the work left undone.

When the Department of Agriculture was founded and made responsible for enforcing the law against steam trawling and other fishery offences, they procured the steam cruiser *Helga* for this special purpose. It was on the east and south coast that offences of this character were most prevalent; but as complaints had come from Galway Bay and other western districts an arrangement was come to between the Board and the Department whereby the captain of the *Granowille* was furnished with a warrant, and the ship was made available for police duty. When on police service the expenses of the *Granowille* are borne by the Department. Breaches of the law have become less frequent since it was discovered that the law could and would be enforced; but every year one or two captures of steam trawlers fall to the lot of the *Granowille*, and utilizing her in this manner seems to be the most economical means of enforcing the law whose breaches it is now few and far between.

The Board have now acquired a number of islands off the coast, the development of which will, I suppose, require at least as much attention in the future as has been accorded to them in the past. And the power of bringing in touch with the Board's fishing boats, with the men who have got fishery leases, or who are applicants for the same, and with the whale coast, &c. I think, not lightly to be abandoned.

The chartering of steamers and delivery of mail consequently, whether by steamer or road or by rail would of course cost far more than has been placed to the account of the *Granowille*. Assuming that the

* See evidence of Connell, p. 274.

work now being done has to continue, and the Board's steamer be no longer available, a cost for carriage far greater than the sum credited in annexed table of expenses and receipts of steamer would have to be met by the Board.

From this point of view the sums credited to the *Glenaville* for her work in the past should have been at least twice as great as that now shown to credit in her account.

It is true that when the Board began work railways did not exist in West Kerry, in Comeragh, to Adhill Strand, nor in Donegal, west of Letterkenny, and the west of Donegal. The new railways give facilities to many districts in which the Board are interested, and render them accessible from headquarters, and through few lines of communication need extensions, it is undoubtedly much more easy to manage the outlying districts now than in the earlier years.

It has been suggested that on account of the expense of maintaining a steamer, the *Glenaville* might be sold as no longer necessary.

I think the time has not yet come for cutting our means of direct communication with the coast, and inland populations of the West, and the expenses, after deducting payments for the services of the steamer, as shown in the statement following, while great, compared with the price of a few fishing boats or other matters on which the money saved might be expended, does not seem excessive when taken as part of the administrative expense of an important Government Department whose first care must be to keep in close touch with the districts which they were constituted to serve.

W. S. GREEN.

28th March, 1905.

SS. "GRANVILLE."

Purchase and Incidental Expenses connected therewith, Upkeep of boat, wages, &c., for ten years from date of purchase, February, 1895, to February, 1905,	Total Cost,	Total Earnings of Steamer up to February, 1905 (including estimated earnings for year 1904-'05),	Net Cost to Board,
£ 10,486 3 8	£ 36,236 7 2	£ 3,350 0 0	£ 328,372 10 10

Average Annual Expenditure and Receipts under different heads for the Five Years ended 31st March, 1904:—

									RECEIPTS.						Total Receipts.	Net Cost.
Wages of Captain and crew.	Coal.	Oil and Lubricants.	Port and Dock dues.	Consumables.	Small Repairs.	General Overhaul.	Subsistence.	Total.	Freight on Animals, Agricultural Implements, &c.	Freight on Goods, Grain, &c. and Timber.	Freight on Butter, Grain, Lard, and other Goods.	Passage Fare.	Pollage Duties.			
£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s
105	140	14	32	72	15	115	10	3,586	20	284	273	99	47	602	2,978	

1175. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You heard the evidence of Mr. Micks. Am you of the same opinion as he that it was too expensive?—I gathered that Mr. Micks thought the Board could save a great deal by hiring a steamer when required, that there would be other very great advantages in hiring a steamer; but in my opinion that would lead to great disadvantages. It would be impossible to hire suitable vessels when they were wanted. We should have considerable difficulty and inconvenience, and as the Board's steamer is constantly employed, I do not see that hiring would be any economy.

1176. What is the cost—about £2,500 a year?—Quite that. The cost would be reduced greatly if the steamer took note of the fact that a good deal of the work of the steamer is carrying members of the Board and officers of the Board on inspection duty; if the full cost of that service was credited to the steamer. There is now only a nominal credit given in the accounts for that work. When the boat carries material it is credited with the amount of the freight in the accounts.

1177. Mr. Micks, I think, considered that nearly all the inspection work could be done from inland. Is that so or not?—No, sir, I do not think it could. It would be impossible to carry on the inspection of waste work from the land. I think the cost would be very much increased.

1178. Therefore you think we must have a steamer, whether owned by the Board or hired?—I think Mr. Micks admitted that the Board must have a steamer, either the present vessel of its own or hire one.

This boat is constantly employed, and I don't see how hiring could be anything but a loss. It might result in hiring a less seaworthy boat, and trouble might arise from that. Only lately the Board had to send down some materials to an estate in the South of Ireland, and by using the steamer we saved £100 in freight. The contractors stated that their price for

delivery on the estate would be at least £300 more than the price for delivery in Dublin. The Board's steamer carried the goods, and there was this saving of £100.

1179. Mr. O'KELLY.—Does a saving of that kind very often occur?—The boat is constantly employed in carrying stores for marine works and so on, but has not hitherto carried much for the estates. In this case a large quantity of materials was carried for estate work.

1180. How many months in the year would the boat be required?—It is required practically every day of the year.

1181. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Do not you think the question is not to be decided by such a balance-sheet as Mr. Micks suggested? Is not the steamer a necessity for the proper administration of the work of the Board?—Yes.

1182. It would be difficult to carry out the administration of the work without the steamer?—It would.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That is the way to look at it.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—But need the Board have its own steamer?

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The steamer, as personally I am aware, is required constantly. You cannot foresee the requirements a week ahead, and thus it would not be possible to charter a steamer for the work.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—And to charter a steamer for the whole of the time might be more expensive.

1183. Mr. O'KELLY.—Is the "Granville" the class of boat generally used for the carrying of this class of materials?—It is admirably designed for the purpose of its work. Although it is a small boat it is an admirable sea boat, and carries about 150 to 200 tons of freight; and there are three cabins for carrying parties engaged in visits of inspection.

Sep. 10, 1895.

Mr. P. W. D. Mitchell.

Sept. 10, 1905.

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Mitchell.

1182. That may be so. But what I ask is this, in the "Granada" the class of boat generally engaged in the class of work you have just mentioned—carrying material?—She has proved to be perfectly adapted to the work.

1183. She may be adapted to the work. But is she the class of boat generally used for that kind of work? Is the "Granada" a yacht?—She does not resemble the boats doing coasting work, but for many purposes she is better than any other coasting boat.

1184. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The expense of the "Granada" has been always a matter of anxiety to the Board?—Yes.

1185. And the suggestions for the hiring of a steamer have been considered, and necessarily there has been a good deal of discussion from time to time at the Board?—Yes; several members were in favour of giving up the steamer.

1186. There has not been one strong current of opinion?—The balance of opinion since Mr. Green submitted his memorandum has been decidedly in favour of keeping the steamer.

1187. You put it that way. The consideration from time to time of the question of retaining it or not up to the present has shown that the balance of advantage is in favour of retaining the "Granada"?—Yes. I have here a memorandum of the subsidies to steamer services by the Board. It is as follows:—

SUBSIDIES TO STEAMER SERVICES.

(a) In the first year of their operations, in April, 1892, the Board established a tri-weekly service between Galway and Aran Islands, agreeing to pay a subsidy of £700 a year to the Galway Steam Boat Company. This arrangement has continued up to the present.

To further assist the Company a loan of £3,300, since repaid, was made to them in 1896.

Calls have at times been made at Killybegs, on the coast of Conamara, but as only one steamer is provided it has been found better to improve the Aran service than to call at places on the mainland which are less in need of assistance.

(b) In 1886 the Board subsidised a service between Westport and Clifden on the south and Belmullet on the north, paying £200 a year, but the service was discontinued on 28th February, 1886.

(c) For nine months, between April and December, 1897, a subsidy of £350 was paid to establish a service between Sligo and Broadhaven.

(d) On 1st July, 1885, a service was commenced on the coast of Donegal with a subsidy of £500 a year from the Board. The terminal ports were Londonderry and Donegal, with occasional calls, at weather and tide permitted, at Ballynass, Burtanport, Mount Charles, and Durlough. This arrangement ceased in June, 1901.

(e) In November, 1901, a subsidy of £500 a year commenced to be paid to the Clyde Shipping Company to assist them in continuing a weekly service on the South-Western coast, between Cork, Schull, Bantry, Castletownshen, Sween, and Dingle. This service was maintained until November, 1905, when it was discontinued, as it was still earned on at a loss, and as the Board would not increase their subsidy, in view of considerable local opposition to the Board giving any assistance.

In connection with this matter it may be added that in 1905 the Board concluded an arrangement with the Great Southern and Western Railway Company and the Cork, Brandon and South Coast Railway Company, by which the then existing railway rates for goods carried to Kenmare, Bantry and Tralee will not be increased, and a special schedule of reduced rates has been fixed for Sween via Kenmare. The Board gave an undertaking that they would not subsidise any line of steamers plying on the South-Western Coast, except if it be a purely local service not extending to Cork or Limerick.

This arrangement was made after the withdrawal of the Clyde Shipping Company's steamer, and provided for the wants of several districts which would otherwise have suffered.

(f) For several seasons between 1900 and 1905, while the Board were endeavouring to establish a spring mackerel fishery at Blackod Point, north of Achill, they chartered a small steamer to run from Blackod to Treenage, a siding on the Midland Railway between Achill Sound and Melbanny. They paid £125 a month, and the cost in six years amounted to £3,375.

(g) For a short time in the winter of 1904-5 the Board paid a small subsidy to the Bentry Bay Steamboat Company for running extra trips to convey herrings to market, but the quantity of fish so carried did not justify the continuance of the extra service beyond a few weeks.

The total expenditure on the above-mentioned steamer services has been as follows, up to 31st March, 1905:—

(a) Galway Bay	...	£36,387
(b) West Coast of Mayo	...	512
(c) North Coast of Mayo	...	308
(d) Donegal	...	1,800
(e) South Coast, Kerry, &c.	...	1,760
(f) Blackod	...	2,375
(g) Bentry Bay	...	66
Total	...	£47,088

1188. The CHAIRMAN.—No doubt we shall have before us the reasons for withdrawing the subsidies?—Yes.*

1189. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Does this memorandum cover the whole period of the Board's operations?—Yes.

1190. About twelve years?—No, sir; fourteen years.

1191. Sir JOHN COLLINS.—Where subsidies were withdrawn by arrangement with the railway companies from various districts, did you make enquiries as to the effect upon the price of food charged by shopkeepers. Did the Congested Districts Board in those districts where subsidies were withdrawn in consequence of local opposition inquire whether the arrangements made with the railway companies were such as to permit of the people getting goods as cheaply as they did before the steamers?—Local enquiries into that point have not since been made, but no complaints have been received, and the Board consider that the arrangements with the railway companies were such that the district concerned would not suffer.

1192. Did not the fact that the steamer subsidised by the Board required a place of landing lead the Board to construct a pier in Kenmare river for that purpose?—At Sween. That was not the only steamer calling there. There were several—a Limerick steamer among others.

1193. And other steamers can use the landing place?—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN.—This is perhaps a question for local enquiry in the district when the Commission goes into the country.

1194. Mr. O'Kearney.—Can you tell me why the Board withdrew the Achill and Belmullet subsidy?—It was many years before I was Secretary. The Chairman has instructed me to draw up the reasons in each case. I cannot tell you now.

1195. Sir JOHN COLLINS.—Can you give us the facts about the erection of a residence for tramps?—When Lady Dudley's scheme for the nursing institutions in the congested districts was formed, the Board agreed, at the request of Lady Dudley, to provide the capital for erecting cottages for the nurses where accommodation could not otherwise be found. The Nursing Institution agreed to pay the Board interest on the capital outlay. Only five cottages were provided. The cost was about £255 each.

1196. The CHAIRMAN.—Memorandum A, which you have handed us, deals, does it not, with the relations of the Board with the Estates Commissioners?

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—This memorandum gives a description of the position as between the Congested Districts Board and the Land Commission?—Yes.

1197. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The Estates Commissioners have full liberty to purchase estates within congested districts?—They have.

1198. It rests with the landlord whether he would deal with the Board or with the Estates Commissioners?—Yes.

1199. The CHAIRMAN.—Under the Act of 1903?—Yes.

1200. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is it not the case that the Estates Commissioners themselves have it in their power under the present circumstances, with the consent of the landlord, to deal with the congested estates within the congested districts under the jurisdiction of the Congested Districts Board?—They have. The only distinction is that the Commissioners under the Land Act cannot lose more than ten per cent., and the Board is not limited to the loss on that head.

Sept. 10, 1906.

Mr. F. W. D. Mitchell.

1201. That is a distinction without a difference, because the Board have not lost anything like ten per cent. But is it not in the power of the Estates Commissioners to do within the congested districts what the Board is doing for them?—It is, sir.

1202. In regard to land?—It is.

1203. So that there are two agencies operating in the same way in the same area?—Yes. But one important point is it is not necessary. The Board were given these powers before the Estates Commissioners were created, and they were acting on these powers and were given a separate district in which to operate, and it saves a risk of trespassing, as the Estates Commissioners have the rest of the country.

1204. But they do it as a matter of fact, and there is nothing in the law to prevent them?—No.

1205. As regards transfer of land and subsequently dealing with land, the Congested Districts Board can do what the Estates Commissioners have been appointed to do?—They can.

1206. Then, you have two agencies in the same area applied to the same work?—There are two agencies, one of which has the legal right to do this work in each area, and the other is not absolutely confined to one area, but practically confined to it. Its operations must be for the benefit of the congested parts of the country.

1207. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The Estates Commissioners, as a matter of fact, do not deal identically with the Congested Districts Board with the purchase of estates in the congested portions. Their operations are somewhat different?—The difference is one that Mr. Doran will be able to explain.

1208. They appear to be rather considerable. I would like to add to what Sir Antony MacDonnell has asked a question, whether that is not an additional disadvantage. You have two agencies for the purchase and division of estates operating in the same province, and under different rules?—It is quite possible that the most rapid system is more applicable to the non-congested districts where the estates are not so badly in need of re-arrangement and assistance.

1209. It seems to me a disadvantage that the operations of the two authorities are not conducted under the same rules or principles?—If the circumstances vary, if two estates differ in their circumstances, it is natural that the mode of treatment may differ.

1210. The mode of treatment might differ in estates that do not differ?—It might possibly. I think there was a case in the County Kerry, mentioned by Mr. Egan, where the Congested Districts Board purchased an estate and the Estates Commissioners purchased another estate adjoining it.

1211. There are certain examples given here, the Garraun Estate and the Wills Sandford Estate, in which the Estates Commissioners apparently did not proceed on different principles?—I am sure Mr. Doran will fully explain all these points.

1212. Mr. KILMURPHY.—Did not you or Mr. Mitchell say that an arrangement was come to between the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board so that they could not clash?—That is in regard to the negotiations for, or the purchase of, one estate. But that would not prevent one Department from purchasing an estate adjoining an estate purchased by the other.

1213. They never have clashed?—The two Departments have never clashed? Except in one case where the Board were negotiating for an estate, and the owner subsequently opened negotiations with the Estates Commissioners. But as the Estates Commissioners are now informed of every estate with which the Board propose to deal such a circumstance will not occur again.

1214. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—But at the same time there seems to be some incongruity in having two systems of improvements going on an adjoining estate?—Yes; that is obvious if the circumstances of the estates are alike and the two estates are treated in a different manner.

1215. Is the work of migration a troublesome and delicate work?—Yes, exceedingly.

1216. Have the Estates Commissioners conducted any migration scheme up to the present?—That is a matter on which I would beg of you to ask Mr. Doran.

1217. In connection with the relations between the Board and the Estates Commissioners, I wish to ask you when does it devolve to vest estates in the Board?—Since the passing of the Act of 1903, the Estates Commissioners vest the estates purchased by the Board.

1218. Since the Act of 1903 was passed the Board has purchased a very large amount of property?—They have.

1219. Has that property all been vested already in the Congested Districts Board?—No; there were very few estates vested at the end of the last financial year. There was a very small proportion of them vested. Since then more rapid progress has been made. But there is still a large number which the Board have agreed to purchase still not yet vested in them. The total value of the ninety-four estates purchased under the Act of 1903 was £1,172,000. The value of the twelve estates which had been vested in the Board by the Estates Commissioners at that date was £303,030. Up to that date twelve estates had been vested in the Board by the Estates Commissioners. Ten estates had been vested by the Land Judge. The Board buy a minority of the property they purchase through the Land Judge Court.

1220. Since the passing of the Act of 1903 how many months have elapsed between the purchase of the estate and its being vested in the Board by the Estates Commissioners?—Would you tell me, has it averaged twelve months?—In a great many cases two years. The Board's solicitor has prepared a memorandum on that point.

1221. In the interval between the purchase of an estate and its being vested in the Congested Districts Board, is the Congested Districts Board legally entitled to make any improvements on the estate?—No; they are advised by their solicitor that they would run great risk in doing so. They are not to interfere with boundaries or carry on improvement works.

1222. Has not there been intense local dissatisfaction with the Congested Districts Board owing to its not being able to proceed to arrange the estates?—There has been great dissatisfaction.

1223. Have the people in these localities put the responsibility on the Board, not knowing that the Board had no control over the delay?—In many cases.

1224. You give this answer without in the least questioning the willingness of the Estates Commissioners to co-operate in the working of the Board?—The delay was principally accounted for by the want of funds. Since the passing of the Act of 1903 there was no arrangement allotting to the Board any separate portion of the funds issued for purchase.

1225. From whatever cause the machinery has worked so slowly, is it not perfectly deplorable that much property, bought by the Board since 1903, has not come into their hands in such a way that the Board could operate upon it?—Yes. It is a great disadvantage that the estates which the Board have agreed to buy cannot be vested in a short time, so that the operations could commence.

1226. After the estate is vested in the Board the Board's ameliorating operations must be necessarily slow?—Time is of great importance. The tenants are impatient; and it is most important for the Board to deal with the estate and re-settle it.

1227. Yes. It will take a lot of time to prepare the estate and re-settle. Is not it a matter of importance that there should be expedition in the vesting of the estates?—Of great importance.

1228. Our credit in the country has suffered owing to the delay of vesting?—There have been many strong protests against the delay, which was considered the fault of the Board.

1229. But you would think that expedition in a matter of that kind should be seen to with all possible care?—Is it a most important matter, that the vesting should be expedited, and most necessary that the improvements should be made expeditiously.

1230. For the past three years has it been your experience that at each meeting of the Board the Board clamoured for expedition in this matter?—They have frequently directed their solicitor to communicate with the Estates Commissioners as to the vesting of the estates.

1231. Would it seem that a body which has shown some competency to re-arrange these estates has been, through this machinery, badly handicapped?—Yes, my lord. But there is one other point: at some cases there have been difficulties in settling titles. It is not the fault of the procedure. It is the fault of the whole system of land tenure—the absence of registration of land.

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1236. Has it come to your knowledge that it has been really difficult for the Estates Commissioners to set apart a special staff to investigate and to set apart a special fund for the purpose?—I believe the legal staff was insufficient, and they have insufficient funds for the purpose. The staff have been doing their best.

1237. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—There are a few questions arising out of what his lordship, the Bishop, asked you. Are you aware of the extent to which estates have now been vested in the Board by the Estates Commissioners? Have you a return up to date?—I have.

1238. Would you consult that return?—I have a return up to the 31st March.

1239. Have you a return up to date?—This is a complete return up to date.

1240. Are there any estates purchased by the Board for the year 1904 which are still unvested?—There are.

1241. What are they?—There is the C. J. Blake estate.

1242. Is that due to difficulties of title or to delay in the Estates Commissioners' Office?—I am not in a position to apportion the blame, if I may so call it, or to say where the difficulty lies.

1243. How many estates of 1904 remain to be vested?—Eight estates in which the ongoing request was lodged with the Estates Commissioners in 1904 were not yet vested in the Board on 31st March, 1905.

1244. How many estates?—Eight, up to the 31st March.

1245. I asked you up to date. Perhaps we shall have it later on. But I may be permitted to say that the facts as regards the operations of the Estates Commissioners present a much better appearance than would appear from the questions of his lordship the Bishop. The Estates Commissioners have shown themselves absolutely willing to give precedence to all cases of the Congested Districts Board as regards vesting. And they have informed the Board that money will be withheld in estates purchased by the Board?—At present out of eight there only remains two which are not vested.

1246. For 1905, can you say?—There are a great many of that year.

1247. I think you had better compare it later. That there has been delay, nobody doubts, but the Estates Commissioners will be able to explain how the delay occurred.

1248. Most Hon. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Mr. Mitchell, you are aware that Sir Anthony MacDonnell at our Board has striven most vigorously to expedite matters?—I am aware of that.

1249. And lately the success has been very great?—I think since Sir Anthony took what I may call a strong line in the matter as immense improvement has occurred.

1250. And we may assume the complete willingness and anxiety of the Estate Commissioners to co-operate with us?—The chief difficulty was understood to be one of staff. The difficulty has been from the Board's work being done in a Department which had more than enough to do without it.

1251. Is not it a fact that we can do nothing to improve those estates vested in us from the beginning of spring until winter sets in again?—It often leads in that way to the loss of a year.

1252. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Putting aside all question of the cause of delay, and following up the bishop as regards the result of delay, I want to ask one question. When the Congested Districts Board has agreed with a landlord for the purchase of an estate, what then happens? The Congested Districts Board agrees with the landlord to purchase his estate—what happens then?—what is the first step?—I have explained that in one of these memoranda. When the Board agrees with the landlord to purchase the estate, the Board's solicitor takes the matter up and draws up a preliminary agreement with the landlord on the terms approved of by the Board. The next step is that the vendor's solicitor prepares the forms that are required by statute, called the originating request, which is lodged at first with the Board, and then sent on by the Board's solicitor to the Estates Commissioners, whose legal staff inquires into the title, and completes the transfer.

1253. In the meantime who is collecting the rents?—The Board's solicitor in preparing this preliminary agreement makes it a stipulation that the Board should receive the rents from a certain date, which is agreed upon between the vendor and the Board.

1254. Therefore, the Board during that interval is in the position of a landlord. Pending purchase, they are receiving the rents?—They are in the position of a land agent—they are collecting the rents.

1255. What is to prevent the landlord, the Congested Districts Board, from going on with the work on the estate, just as if it were an individual person's landlord?—There is a possibility that the title may not be made and the purchase may not go through.

1256. That is one cause, and also is it not the case that most of these tenants, being statutory tenants, the landlord has no power whatever, the Congested Districts Board has no power whatever to drain, or open, or square farms?—He is paralysed by the Act of 1881.—That is what I stated in answer to Dr. O'Donnell.

1257. Whether the delay in the legal transfer be long or short, the provisions of the Act of 1881 paralyse the action of the Board in improvement works and squaring farms?—As a matter of fact, not as a necessary condition of the Act.

1258. It produces that result?—Partly owing to the delay in getting the machinery together. If the Estates Commissioners had as large a staff as they want, and if money were freely provided, there would not be so long a delay.

1259. The price having been settled, how does the question of price and legal delay affect position? How would any amount of money given extra avoid the hanging up of the action of the Congested Districts Board from the time that it in effect becomes the landlord?—I mean to say if there had been a sufficient staff for the immediate examination of title, and there was no delay on that point, there might yet have been a delay, and there was delay owing to the Government not providing a sufficient amount of cash to meet the cases that had arisen.

1260. The CHAIRMAN.—I do not quite follow your answers to Sir John Coleman. You agree with him that the Act of 1881—?—Fardon was; the Act of 1903.

1261. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—I spoke of the Act of 1881. In the old days there were scattered throughout Ireland men who spent their lives in improving their estates. Since the Act of 1881 they ceased to do so by reason of the difficulties and by reason of new conditions of things. Very well. By the process you describe, the Congested Districts Board assumes the position during the interregnum of a landlord under the conditions imposed by the Act of 1881. Is not that so?—No, sir; in the interregnum the Board is simply a land agency which collects the rents. They have no legal power to do anything more.

1262. Because the landlord or the agent had not. That is my point. Do you follow me?—I am afraid I do not.

1263. Because the landlord has been converted by the Act of 1881, merely into a collector of rents. He has no power to alter farms or square things. Therefore you are in the position of an agent by reason of the fact that under the Act of 1881 the landlord has no power to do improvements except by agreement with the tenants, and by their willingness and co-operation?—A landlord has certain powers in connection with holdings, but Mr. DEANE, or the Board's solicitor will be able to give information that I cannot on these points.

1264. That is, you would prefer the designation of that question by others. I only asked you to get the matter clear. I wanted to know what really has been the position during the interregnum—whether the Congested Districts Board is really paralysed, and, if so, why?—That, perhaps, is your difficulty, sir. The reason the Board cannot interfere is that if the title fell through, and the estate had to be returned to the landlord, great complications and difficulties would arise if the Board had interfered with the rents and boundaries of holdings, and in that way prevented the restoration of the estate to the owner.

1265. Then I may take it that that in your view is the main reason—the danger of the title falling through in the end, rather than anything else?—Yes, that is the real reason.

1266. The CHAIRMAN.—Of course, Mr. Mitchell, if the estate is actually vested in the Congested Districts Board, improvements have to be made with the consent of the tenant?—In some cases, the Board have certain powers of interference.

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1285 As regards re-stripping and everything of that kind, the tenants generally have to consent before such improvements can be done?—Well, the law has certain powers of a compulsory kind in connection with holdings.

1286 Is the estate only vested in the Congested Districts Board when the money is actually paid by the Estates Commissioners to the landlord?—Generally at that point. The vesting and the provision of the money are generally simultaneous. Of course the money does not come to the Board. It is distributed by the Estates Commissioners.

1287 You have been asked about the delay. The power of purchase of the Congested Districts Board is practically unlimited?—They are.

1288 And the funds at the disposal of the Estates Commissioners are very limited?—That is true.

1289 Therefore, if the Congested Districts Board assumed the magnitude of these purchase operations on a large scale, as is evident has been the case since the passing of the Act of 1903, and that the Estates Commissioners also lay land largely in other places, there is sure to be lack of funds?—Yes; for the proportion borne by the Board's purchases to the gross amount of money provided would be taken into account. If the Board's purchases, as compared with the amount of money provided, are very moderate they should not be delayed, hence other purchases have been extensive.

1290 Since 1903 how much has been the demand by the Congested Districts Board upon the Estates Commissioners in respect of land purchase?—£1,300,000.

1291 The amount provided by the Treasury to the Estates Commissioners has been about £17,000,000. Therefore, out of this £17,000,000 which they have demanded, they have had to pay how much to the Congested Districts Board?—£700,000. The balance of the £1,300,000 is not ripe yet for advances. It is not yet vested. The Estates Commissioners have only to the Board about £700,000 so far, out of the £17,000,000.

1292 But do you think that the delay that Dr. O'Donnell has been speaking of is due to lack of money available for the Estates Commissioners, or to any other cause?—It was, I believe, primarily due to the want of sufficient staff, and secondly to there being insufficient money.

1293 Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Is that so?—I believe so.

1294 Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is it easier to dispose of, or adapt several estates, or to adapt one or two?—By you mean, is it easier to deal with the smaller quantity?

1295 Yes, to deal with it from your point of view?—Of course a large number of estates would be dealt with proportionately more economically than a few.

1296 But would they be dealt with quicker?—That depends entirely on the staff. If the number is in excess of the abilities of the staff, there would be delay.

1297 I understood you to say you were not able to do so expeditiously as you would like it to be done?—That was with regard to the investigation of title. That work depends directly on the number of cases, and the trouble of each case. One case does not affect the other.

1298 Therefore, the more estates the more delay?—Yes.

Mr. O'KELLY.—You have said to the Chairman that the income of the Congested Districts Board was practically unlimited.

The CHAIRMAN.—Oh, no; pardon me. The purchase powers.

1299 Mr. O'KELLY.—That they were practically unlimited, and that the powers of the Estates Commissioners were limited?—They are both limited by the Act to the limit placed by statute on each county. There is a certain limit.

1300 Is it not a fact that the Estates Commissioners may have on their hands at one time land up to the value of £5,000,000?—Yes, of unencumbered land.

1301 Whilst the Congested Districts Board is limited to one and a-quarter millions?—That is one limit.

1302 The CHAIRMAN.—What is that?—There is that limit imposed on both departments as to the amount of unencumbered land not re-sold, but it is not practically an abstraction, it is such a high limit.

1303 Mr. O'KELLY.—How do you arrive at your conclusion that the Estates Commissioners are practically limited in their power of purchase; whilst the Congested Districts Board are practically unlimited.

1304 The CHAIRMAN.—May I explain. I did not ask Mr. Mitchell whether it was not a fact that the powers of purchase of the Congested Districts Board were unlimited, whereas the powers of the Estates Commissioners were limited. What I asked him was whether it was not a fact that, while the powers of purchase by the Congested Districts Board were practically unlimited, the funds at the disposal of the Estates Commissioners for this purpose were limited, my point being, that if the Congested Districts Board buy on a very large scale, without any reference at all to the funds at the disposal of the Estates Commissioners, and then the bill is sent in to the Estates Commissioners, there must be a delay before the bill is paid?—Yes, if the money provided by Government is insufficient for all, as has been the case in the past. Mr. O'KELLY's question is whether there is a limit. The Act imposes a limit of thirty times the guarantee for each county.

1305 Mr. O'KELLY.—Yes, I understand; but the point remains that the Estates Commission may have on its hands land up to the value of five millions, whilst the Congested Districts Board is confined to one and a-quarter millions?—Yes, of unencumbered land.

1306 The CHAIRMAN.—Will you explain the limitation to thirty times the guarantee?—I mean thirty times the annual value of the guarantee fund.

1307 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Under which Act?—The Act of 1903, Section 40.

1308 The CHAIRMAN.—The Guarantee Fund amounts now to how much?—To £3,000,000 a year, and the Treasury have power to raise the limit to sixty times that, so that there is really a fund of £180,000,000. There is no restriction short of £180,000,000, provided the money is found.

1309 On whom is this limit of £180,000,000 placed?—The Act authorises advances, leaving out the question of finding money—the Act authorises advances amounting for the whole of Ireland to a sum of £180,000,000.

1310 Do you mean advances by the Treasury?—The limit is half that, or £90,000,000, without reference to the Treasury. With reference to the Treasury it can be advanced to £180,000,000.

1311 I do not quite follow yet. The Act of 1903, you say, allows advances up to £180,000,000. But advanced by whom to whom?—Advanced under the Land Purchase Acts.

1312 Advanced by the Estates Commissioners?—Yes, under the Land Purchase Acts.

1313 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is the exact section you refer to?—Section 40.

Sir JOHN O'DONNELL.—I want to ask you, Mr. Mitchell, a question about this matter of value on page 6 of Memorandum A.*

1314 The CHAIRMAN.—Excuse me for a moment. I want to become a little clearer about this matter of the £180,000,000. The £180,000,000 you have in your mind, Mr. Mitchell, is the limit of the amount which the Treasury may raise by the issue of stock for the purpose of land purchase?—It is the limit as regards security. The security which the Estates Commission looks to for the repayment of advances made for the purchase of holdings is the guarantee fund of £5,000,000 a year. Advances may be made up to thirty times the value of that security, which gives £90,000,000 before the Estates Commission would consider the advances were in excess of the security.

1315 Is there any limit upon the Estates Commissioners, or the Congested Districts Board, as to the value of the estates they purchase in any particular district in Ireland?—No, the only limit is by

Sept. 16, 1906 the county. This limit is thirty times the guaranteed fund of each county, but in the gross, it amounts to £80,000,000.*

1296. Sir JAMES COLUHAN.—Questions were asked about unencumbered land, and the limits imposed on the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board as to the holding at one time of unencumbered land. I see in Memorandum A that the effect of Section 74 of the Act of 1903 is to limit the total value of unencumbered lands in the hands of the Congested Districts Board to £1,337,500. Is not that so?—Yes.

1297. Very well. Now that is the limit on the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

1298. And we have got the figure for the other. Has that limit been anywhere nearly approached?—Not in any degree.

1299. Could you give a rough estimate—taking the transactions in the past and experience of dealing with unencumbered land—of what might be approximately taken as the annual value in rental of that land, coming in to the Congested Districts Board, which they have purchased under this Act?—They have given, I think, about £330,000 for unencumbered land under the Act of 1903 and £130,000 under previous Acts. Something like 90,000 acres have been bought.

1300. What was the rental value of that. I will not press you if you have not the figures ready?

Mr. BRYCE.—I think it is about 30s. an acre.

1301. Sir JAMES COLUHAN.—I will not press you on that, but, by-and-by, you will be able to show us, from the results of your experience, what is about the amount that is coming into the Congested Districts Board for unencumbered land in its hands, because, it seems to me a certain security, and a very fine paying thing?—I am safe to say that by getting the lands the Board are getting more than they are paying the Land Commission.

1302. And you can give us the figures if there are any on that point?—Yes.

1303. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Just a few questions to explain still further the cause of the delay in the dealing of estates. Are you aware that when the Act of 1903 was passed a provisional arrangement was made with the Chief Secretary to allocate a certain sum of each loan raised for the purpose of the Congested Districts Board?—I knew that it was proposed, and that you endeavoured to carry it out.

1304. You know that it was proposed. Do you know that afterwards, when the Board was proceeding on the assumption that such an allocation would be carried out, objections were raised to giving precedence to the Board's estates in the matter of dealing title?—Yes. I heard there was a legal objection.

1305. And the effect of it would be that the Board, in its purchase of estates, should take its place on the general roster with the other landlords of the country?—Quite so.

1306. The result of that would be that estates which the Board purchased in the hope of speedily getting possession of them were relegated to a position far down on the list?—Certainly.

1307. And that probably if that arrangement had been carried out, the Board would not be able, for years to come, to get possession of those estates?—That is so. The Board strongly objected to the proposed legal restriction.

1308. The legal arrangement, according to the opinion which then prevailed. Subsequently that legal opinion and that policy was reversed, and precedence was given to the Board's estates in the matter of the dealing of title, on the application of the Government?—Yes. I knew that the result was that the Estates Commissioners had the title of the Board's estates investigated forthwith.

* Deducting the share of the (unemployed) borough, the Government Fund for the counties amounted in 1904 to £75,000,000, net.

† The Poor-law valuation of the grazing lands is £16,500 a year, and the estimated revenue to be derived from them is £25,000 a year.

1309. So that the inference would be that it was not through any difficulty or want of energy on the part of the Estates Commissioners that this delay occurred; but that it was entirely due to the interpretation of the law which was then accepted by the Government?—I should say first, that the new arrangement by which the obstruction was removed was comparatively recent. It was only in July that the dealing of estates made rapid progress. I believe a secondary cause was the want of staff.

1310. Two causes contributed in your opinion. One was the deficiency of staff in the Estates Commissioners' Office. Another was that interpretation of the law which denied to the Congested Districts Board priority in the dealing of title, and compelled them to assume a position on the roster in accordance with the general rule applicable in other cases?—Yes, and a third reason may be stated to be the limited amount of money advanced for the purposes of the Act.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Well, in that the Board suffered with every other landlord.

1311. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—From the moment the Congested Districts Board obtained priority in the investigation of title, the number of other cases before the Estates Commissioners did not interfere with such investigation of title?—Apparently so.

1312. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—And since then there has been rapid progress?—They have made rapid progress since that.

1313. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It is not, in point of fact, the pressure of other landlords that has affected you since that priority was given?—That has not had an effect since. I may say also that between November of last year and June of this year, the Estates Commissioners only visited two of the Board's estates, whilst in the one month of July this year they visited eighteen.

1314. Mr. BRYCE.—Under those circumstances would the want of staff have really much to do with it?—I cannot say how much.

1315. But considering the tremendous rapidly when it did begin, it did not look like as if want of staff had much to do with it?—That is so.

1316. The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Mitchell, if there is nothing else you wish to say with regard to the relations of the Congested Districts Board with the Estates Commissioners, will you please go on to its relationship with the Department of Agriculture?—It is chiefly connected with the transfer of agricultural work two years ago. A summary of the work which the Board has been carrying out is given in the Thirteenth Annual Report, and will show the character of the work, and the cost of the work, which the Board had in hand when they closed their operations and transferred that branch of the work to the Department. I may state that in the Board's estimate for the year 1903-4 they provided for the following sums: For improvement of the breeds of horses and asses, £4,400. In addition to that the Stud Farm at Chantry cost £2500 per annum. For the improvement of the breeds of cattle, £5,800 was provided; for sheep, £1,150; swine, £850; poultry, £450; bee-keeping, £2,100. The amount of work done is indicated in the following Table:—

NOTES ON SCREENS IN AGRICULTURAL BRANCH, 1903.

Horse Breeding.—

Horses stationed in congested districts during 1903, for service,	25
Stallion asses stationed in congested districts during 1903, for service,	25
Loughlynne stall on 31st March, 1903: mares and foals,	37

Stud Farm.—

Horses, mares, foals, and asses,	14
Other stock, bulls, cows, calves, bullocks, etc.,	25

Cattle—	
Bulls at present under agreement in congested districts, ...	337
Bulls sold under agreement last year, ...	115
Sheep—	
Sheep-dipping stations last season, ...	27
Sheep dipped last season, ...	53,000
Wool sold at last distribution (1901), ...	63
Horse—	
Horses at present under agreement in congested districts, ...	79
Horses sold under agreement last year, ...	48
Poultry—	
Poultry farms now existing, ...	56
Number of eggs distributed in 1902-3, ...	53,185
Beeskeeping—	
Bees and outfits supplied last year, ...	102
Cases of foul brood dealt with last year, ...	36
Honey Depot: Sections purchased in 1902, ...	3,360
Honey Depot: Run honey purchased in 1902, ... lbs.,	1,600
Fruit Spraying—	
Spraying machines sold this year to date, ...	335
Districts in which lectures and Demonstrations were given, ...	7
Example Holdings—	
Example holdings in operation this year, ...	15
Example and experimental plots now this year, ...	173
Fruit Trees and Forestry—	
Fruit trees sold this year, ...	12,065
Fruit trees distributed this year, ...	156,000
Market Gardening—	
Early potato culture: about 150 applicants got 150 cwt. of seed.	
Donkey Fencing—	
Number of yards of fencing erected last year, ...	47,615
Land Shows—	
Show to which grants have been given this year, ...	15

1317. The CHAIRMAN—Does this appear in the memorandum?—Yes, in Memorandum C. Proceeds of moneys, £2,750—that was repayable, still it was well used. For providing agricultural implements, £120. For encouraging the growth of fruit trees, £125 was provided, and for forestry, £350. That last item was for the distribution, gratis, of young forest trees. The total £13,155, which was provided for in the expenditure. The anticipated receipts were £7,175, so that there was a net expenditure of over £11,000. The Department of Agriculture, as the Board understood it, took over the entire charge of the improvement of agriculture in the congested districts for a payment of £2,000 a year. The Board have no information as to what work the Department have done in the congested districts during these two years up to 31st March last, so that the results of this transfer are not known to the Board. But I may mention that the rates on the congested districts for the purposes of agriculture and technical instruction came to about £2,400 a year at the ordinary rate, and if the Department had contributed as a grant in the form of grants in aid towards the

rates at the same rate that they did at first, and at the same rate that the Board did for the first year, the grant in aid, in addition to the £2,400, would have been £3,000, making £5,400, as the fund available for these schemes of agricultural and technical instruction. But as against that sum of £5,000, the Board, without any assistance from the local rates, were expending a net sum of £11,000 a year on agriculture, so that they were spending double what might have been done if the Department had merely extended their usual operations to the congested districts.

1318. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL—Irrespective of the £2,400?—The £2,400 of rates—yes.

1319. The CHAIRMAN—You have no idea of what has been done since the transfer?—I have no information as to the amount of work done.

1320. Do you know at all whether there has been a decrease of work under these heads?—I cannot say, but Mr. Doran, I think, will give you some information. Mr. Doran, who spends nearly all his time in the congested districts has means of observing, I have not.

1321. Have you ever received any complaints from people in the country in regard to the transfer?—No direct complaints.

1322. Sir FRANCIS MORAY—Does not the Department of Agriculture issue an annual report?—They do, but they don't show separately what they have done in the congested districts—they show their operations in the county—not separately for the congested districts.

Mr. KAVANAGH—What was the reason for the Congested Districts Board handing over these functions?—It was chiefly owing to the complications which resulted from the fact of the two Departments working in the same area. The congested districts could be rated under the Act of 1890—Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act—and in any scheme of expenditure all the money so collected had to be disposed of and arranged by the Department, not by the Board.

1323. It was only a matter of finance between the two Boards?—Well, the difficulty really was that as the Board were carrying out agricultural improvement schemes in these districts, and the Department had arranged schemes with the County Councils, the two were concurrent and would overlap—it was an extreme case of overlapping, and negotiations had to be carried on between the three Departments—the County Councils, the Department, and the Board—to see that the work of one scheme did not interfere with the other.

1324. Then, when you handed over these functions to the Agricultural Department, had you to give over any funds?—The Board agreed to pay £2,000, but Mr. Wyndham, who was the Chief Secretary then, drove as hard a bargain as he could with the Department, and he said it was very important for the Board to devote as much of their funds as possible to estates business, and therefore it was a great object to reduce expenditure under other heads. The Department then undertook to do the work for the £2,000 a year; the Board's income is essentially reduced by that £2,000 a year. Of course the difference between this expenditure of £2,000 and the net expenditure of about £11,000, realised about £9,000 a year towards income for other purposes.

1325. Sir JAMES COLEMAN—Readily, until this change was made there were two public bodies, one a Government Department and the other the Congested Districts Board competing in the same area in the mortgage and carrying out of improvement schemes?—Yes.

1326. Was there any representation, that being ascertained at the time, and it being felt it should be stopped—did the Congested Districts Board at all take up the position that it would be better for them to continue it—to keep out the Agricultural Department from that scheduled district—was there any tendency of the Board to take that position?—You see, sir, the Congested Districts could not be separated from the rest of the county in the levying of rates—rates expended for the—

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1327. Mr. O'KELLY.—Did you not get a special Act passed?—Yes, subsequently a special Act was passed enabling the County Councils to confine the rates to the non-congested districts if they pleased; but as a matter of fact I think they were not so confined.

1328. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—The main difference of policy between the departments competing in the same area was this, that the Congested Districts Board operated without asking for any local help in the shape of rates, while the Agricultural Department made it a *præcondition* for consideration that the rates should contribute?—All their work is done jointly between them and the County Councils. They give a grant in addition to the local rates.

1329. Mr. BRYCE.—Do you consider, Mr. Mitchell, your operations are really preliminary operations—your buying estates and putting them into order are really preliminary operations—you are leaving a basis of improvement for further improvement?—The estates business—

1330. I mean you get the estate into order, but in order that the full benefit of your operations may be accomplished, subsequent operations are wanted—that is to say, operations in the way of improvement of agriculture, and so on?—Quite so.

1331. After the improvement is done there is the work of handing over the estates to the tenants?—Yes.

1332. Do you consider that at present sufficient is being done for that?—I would respect the Commission to ask Mr. DORMA. I am personally not in a position to answer the question, and the Board have no information. I wish to refer to the Board's latest dealings with the Department of Agriculture. There was a resolution lately passed by the Agricultural Board which I may read:

1333. "Department of Agriculture, &c. Extract from minutes of proceedings of the Agricultural Board at a meeting held on Thursday, the 19th of July, 1905. After considerable discussion, and a consideration of the correspondence between the Vice-President and the Chief Secretary, Mr. WYNHAM, the following resolution was proposed by Mr. P. J. O'NEIL, seconded by Lord MONTAGUE, and passed unanimously:—That the Board consider it urgently necessary that their financial position as regards the agricultural work taken over from the Congested Districts Board should be dealt with. As they pointed out at the time of that arrangement, the sum of £2,000, voted by the Congested Districts Board, is quite inadequate, and the Department, with the concurrence of the Agricultural Board, have been supplementing that sum from the moneys assigned to them by Parliament for the parts of Ireland other than the congested districts on the understanding that this outlay should be repaid by the Endowment Fund should be completed at the earliest possible date, either in the manner referred to in the Chief Secretary's memorandum of October 12th, 1900, namely, from the funds of the Congested Districts Board, or otherwise. Since that date the deficit has not been made good, and the Department and the Agricultural Board, in their anxiety to assist the Congested Districts in respect of the work taken over, have annually supplemented the inadequate sum provided, and in January, 1905, voted £10,000 to these districts for seed potatoes in connection with the failure of the potato crop of that season. Now that the demands on the Endowment Fund for schemes in the non-congested parts of the country exceed the total annual sum available, it will be neither practicable nor legitimate for the Board to deplete the funds intended by Parliament for those parts of the country in order to apply them to districts for which they were not intended. In these circumstances the Board find it necessary to request the Government to give effect to the understanding of Mr. WYNHAM and supplement their Endowment Fund with a special provision for work in the congested districts; otherwise the work in these districts must seriously suffer." This was considered at a special meeting of the Congested Districts Board held on the 28th August, and the following minute was made:—"On consideration of the resolution adopted by the Department of Agriculture at their meeting on the 18th ult., the Board are altogether unable to agree in the

interpretation placed on their President's minute of the 12th October, 1903. They are clear on the point that there was at the time no intention on the Board's part to increase the contribution of £2,000 then made to the Department. Apart from the question of interpretation or intention, the Board find their finances all too insufficient for their immediate and prospective requirements." I ought to explain that in connection with the payment of £10,000 for seed potatoes, it happens that in the particular matter the Board are restricted by Act of Parliament, and prohibited from selling seed potatoes at less than cost price. If there were a loss on the transaction, the Board would have been legally unable to defray it.

The CHAIRMAN.—The Agricultural Board stated in their resolution they had lately spent £10,000.

1334. Mr. O'KELLY.—Where was that £10,000 derived from?—I don't know. The Agricultural Board speak of it as their endowment.

1335. Is it not a fact that that sum was handed over to the Department of Agriculture out of what the interest of these loans was got?—What loans?

1336. Is it not a fact that a certain sum was handed over to the Department of Agriculture plus their endowment out of which the interest in the past was paid?—Yes; funds were handed over to the Department which belonged to the country generally. Mr. O'NEIL is more immediately concerned with that subject, and I think he will be able to answer it.

1337. Mr. BRYCE.—I think there is still confusion. You say that the Board was forbidden by Act of Parliament to lose by these transactions?—My Board—the Congested Districts Board.

1338. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is it your point that the Congested Districts Board have no concern with the expenditure of that £10,000?—I mean if it is a loss, as implied here, it is a loss the Board could not legally—

1339. In other words, the Congested Districts Board have no concern with the transaction?—No; it appears when the Department and the Agricultural Board made this appeal to the Board for repayment in connection with this they had overlooked the section of the Act of 1891 which prevents the selling of seed potatoes at less than cost price.

1340. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Which Board?—The Congested Districts Board.

1341. Mr. BRYCE.—They are allowed to lose on anything else and not allowed to lose on the sale of seed potatoes.

1342. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The effect of this decision was that £9,000 became available for the first time for other purposes of the Board?—Yes.

1343. Is that £9,000 included in that calculation of the £11,000 which the Board—?—Yes. The calculation of £11,000 available for estates business out of income has been made subsequently.

1344. How does it happen that the £140,000 was arrived at?—The £140,000 was the value of the land which the Board could turn over to buy and resell. If the Board turned over that amount of land, and lost, as it is estimated, 8 per cent. upon it, the loss would be £11,600, which must be met out of income. The Board's income was sufficient to provide that £11,600, but if they turned over three times as much land—£420,000 worth—their income would not be sufficient to bear the inevitable loss.

1345. Was this £9,000 included in the £11,000?—That £9,000 had been merged in all the Board's other schemes. I have no particular part of it earmarked as having gone there.

1346. No, but in arriving at the total income of the Board—this £9,000 was part of the total?—It was part of the general fund.

1347. Mr. BRYCE.—What has been spent since the transaction? What I would like to know is whether you got £2,000 worth since you began to pay the £2,000?—That is a point upon which I have no information. Mr. DORMA will be able to give you some idea of what he has observed has been done by the Department. I can only tell you of what the Board were doing. If you wish I will hand this in—the schemes the Board was carrying on at the time they gave up agriculture. It may be of importance.*

* See p. 53.

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1343 The CHAIRMAN.—That will appear in your evidence?—Yes, if you please. I have no further information on that subject.

1344 Mr. BRYCE.—I would like to ask whether you are quite comfortable with regard to the handling of these estates which the Board has already in possession, or which it has arranged to purchase? The Treasury says that in a certain time you will be able to deal with £140,000 a year at most. I would like to understand whether the Board is quite out of its mind as regards this?—No, sir. At the end of this present financial year the Board will be at the end of their tether. They will not be able to provide for the work next year, unless they get a further income of £32,000 a year to defray the inevitable loss on dealing with those estates. In addition to that, they will require to borrow money for the purchase of tenants' interests—that is to say large holdings of land in order to divide them amongst small tenants. There is no provision at present, as explained in the correspondence with the Treasury—there are no means of enabling the Board to obtain that money. They cannot borrow it from the Land Commission under the Land Acts, and they cannot borrow it from the Board of Works under the Public Works Loan Acts.

1345 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I gather from that correspondence that the Treasury contemplated that even the £140,000 purchase should stop until you have got rid of the lands on hand?—I am not sure whether the Treasury advised the Board or suggested, but I rather think they suggested that they should buy making use until their financial position was reconsidered—until fresh funds were obtained.

1346 Mr. O'KELLY.—Have your returns been made out?—Yes.

1347 Have they been made out in accordance with the last Treasury letter?—No, the last returns were very difficult to obtain.

1348 I notice the last letter was on the 19th June—have you replied?—No. Pending this inquiry, and owing to the troublesome nature of the returns they asked for, the letter has not been answered.*

1349 The CHAIRMAN.—Do I understand that there will be a difficulty in dealing with the property which you have already engaged to buy?—There will, sir. The Board can finance everything up to March next. After that they will not be able to proceed satisfactorily without, not only an increase of income, but the means of borrowing money for the purchase of tenants' interest, which comes to £30,000 or £40,000 a year. I should explain that the whole of that money the Board are anxious to borrow, because it is all repayable by the tenants.

1350 That is part of the money which you have already sunk in the older estates—those bought before the passing of the present Act—on which the Board spent something like £250,000?—On improvement works and other expenditure. The Thirteenth Report gives a full statement of that. The Board are recovering on re-sale to the tenants £50,000 or £70,000. That will help to finance the large amount of property they have at present on hand.

1351 Mr. O'KELLY.—You expect, I think, some time early next year to get a balance of £24,000?—This year.

1352 Would you tell me the original source of that—was it the sale of Government Stock?—No, the money was put into these estates out of the Board's income.

1353 Estates sold at an enhanced price?—Yes, but at a loss. The Board put in a great deal more money than they are getting out, but they are getting back the £70,000 or £75,000. They are getting it back from the Land Commission.

1354 Is this £24,000 coming to you from operations previous to the Act of 1903?—Yes.

1355 Is it from the Land Commission—from the National Debt Commissioners. Would you read Section 72, sub-section 3 of the Act of 1903?—"Regulations made by the Treasury may provide that where the Congested Districts Board have expended

money on the improvement of an estate, and in consequence have sold parcels of that estate at an enhanced price to tenants or others, the National Debt Commissioners may advance to the Land Commission for repayment to the Congested Districts Board such sums as represent the increase of price consequent on the improvements."

1356 Mr. O'KELLY.—It is under that particular section?—Yes.

1357 Mr. BRYCE.—Notwithstanding all these moneys that are coming in to you you will still be short for the estates you actually bought?—Yes, because if out of the million and a quarter worth of land they sell £400,000 worth at a loss of eight per cent., it would be a loss of £32,000, which they have not means to meet.

1358 The CHAIRMAN.—How much is wanted?—The Board have not fixed any definite amount, but the maximum would be £30,000 for estates and more for other purposes—£35,000 would, I suppose, be the minimum, but I have no authority from the Board to mention any particular figure.

1359 Mr. BRYCE.—The £400,000 is capital expenditure, which will eventually be recovered?—The £400,000 represents the price of the land, which never passes through the Board's hands.

1360 Sir JOHN COLOMER.—Tell me, is it a fair statement of your general position that the difficulties ahead of you are due to not having working capital as distinguished from capital expenditure?—No, sir; it is owing to the fact that the Board cannot carry on the work of these very poor estates, dealing with such a very poor class of tenants, without a loss, and that loss—the final loss—must be met out of income.

1361 Then you want the £30,000 to cover more loss?—Yes.

1362 You want the £30,000 in order to lose more?—To spend for the benefit of the poorest landholders of the country.

Sir JOHN COLOMER.—In its financial aspect you want £30,000 in order to lose more.

1363 Mr. O'KELLY.—You have the annual turnover of land £400,000?—As a minimum.

1364 You say you cannot transfer that with advantage unless you lose eight per cent.?—That is the estimate.

1365 That would mean that you would lose £32,000 a year?—Yes.

1366 You have now £11,000 a year to lose out of your own income?—Yes.

1367 The balance is £20,000, and you want that?—Yes, and we want that and some assistance in other matters.

1368 Mr. KAVANAGH.—Unless you get this what will happen?—I am afraid, as Sir Anthony MacDonnell said, the Board will be brought to a standstill.

1369 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It is the pace at which the Board are purchasing land that increases this amount of loss, and therefore the need of additional income?—Yes, it is.

1370 And that increase of pace will be very great during the next two or three years?—It has been since the passing of the Act.

1371 The Treasury has no means whatever of stopping that pace. You can go on buying, subject to the statutory limitations, without reference to the Treasury. The Treasury, as I understand it, have no voice in the matter—they were being drawn upon from year to year for amounts which they had not prepared for in their Budget?—They don't provide the money—they only scrutinise the Board's estimates. It is not from the Treasury, but from the Government that the Board expect assistance.

1372 I must explain, too, that the Treasury has not got a penny. That is to say, if £25,000 is to be advanced Parliament must be asked to provide it. The Treasury found that the demand upon them had been increasing from year to year without their being able to stop it. They, therefore, made this arrangement, as I understand—"We cannot go on doing this. We will see you through this year, but on next year's estimate we will consider the whole

* See copy of Board's letter to the Under Secretary, dated 12th October, 1906, Memorandum B, p. 262.

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subject as open?—Pardon me, it is not quite so. The Treasury did not finance the Board or provide anything for the Board. The Statute gives them the duty of criticising the Board's estimates, and objecting to them if they please, and the Treasury's position probably is that, if they see the Board committing themselves to expenditure that their income does not justify, they object. The Board admit that, but they say that in the exceedingly important cases which they have to meet they must buy estates at a greater price or their work would be ridiculous.

1378. The Treasury say that you can, on to the end of this year, but that next year, on the estimate, the whole thing must be reconsidered; that is the position?—Quite so.

1379. The CHAIRMAN.—There are no items of income now possessed by the Board which have ever been given to the Board by arrangement of the Government and the Treasury without an Act of Parliament?—None.

1380. The CHAIRMAN.—Every single item in the Board's income from the time it was started is conferred by statute and therefore does not it amount to this that if an increase is asked for at the present time it must be sanctioned by Parliament, and the Treasury cannot give of themselves.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Let me put it this way. The Treasury have got no money. They don't possess private income to give away. If £20,000 or £30,000 additional is to be provided for the work of the Congested Districts Board Parliament must be asked to provide it, and the Treasury has said in the ordinary official papers, "in order that the Government may ask for that £20,000 more they must go to Parliament. We have no power to give you any more, and at the end of the year your estimates must be reconsidered."—It is as you say. The Treasury are really the guardians of the public purse, and the Board go to the Government.

The CHAIRMAN.—But it is not a question of an annual vote.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The Board's income is

1381. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—If you recognise that the Congested Districts Board are going to buy £900,000 worth of land a year, and on selling it lose 8 per cent., a provision of 8 per cent a year on £900,000 must be provided for, and that is calculated to amount to something like £20,000 a year more than is available.

1382. The CHAIRMAN.—Would it be within the power of the Treasury at any time to increase the income of the Board without an Act of Parliament?—No.

1383. Is that annual income of the Board voted each year in the House of Commons?—What we call the Parliamentary grant—£20,000—is voted every year, but it is practically a permanent thing when once passed. The chief part of the Board's income, the £41,250 from the Church surplus grant, is not voted every year. That is a permanent charge so long as the Board exists on the Church surplus grant of £1,500,000.

1384. Mr. BRYCE.—With regard to the increase of pace to which Sir Francis referred, I understand that that increase of pace is entirely owing to the fact that if you don't buy now you will never be able to buy?—Quite so. The opportunity will be gone as the Purchase Acts are disposing of the land.

1385. The land is changing hands so rapidly that if you don't buy these additional lands within the next year or two, these lands which are necessary for the improvement of the condition of these poor tenants you will never be able to do it at all?—Quite so.

1386. Sir JOHN COCHRAN.—Does not it follow, if you go on buying land at this rate it is not merely the loss of the 8 per cent., but in order to deal with such vast areas of the country there must be a very considerable increase of expense by increasing the administration?—No. The present staff, it is expected, will be sufficient for dealing with that amount of land.

1387. Then when not dealing with that amount of land the present staff, according to that, is more than what is required?—It would have been if the land in the Board's hands had not accumulated to such a large extent. They have now more than they can deal with, and some of the estates most want.

1388. The CHAIRMAN.—Is this the case: the fixed income of the Board is, roughly, £20,000 a year?—Yes.

1389. £41,250 arise from the Church surplus grant. That is fixed, and is not voted annually?—Yes.

1390. Then £21,000 is a Parliamentary grant?—Yes.

1391. Voted annually?—Yes.

1392. And the £20,000 part of the Development Grant, is that voted annually?—Yes, that is the whole Ireland Development Grant, £180,000, is voted annually, and that is part of it.

1393. That is the £20,000 given by the Act of 1903?—Yes.

1394. In 1903 was not the Treasury asked to increase the Parliamentary grant, before the Act was passed?—I don't recollect what passed, but the Board had been asking for an increase of funds, and it was recognised when this Act was passed, giving greater facilities for buying land, that they would certainly require a larger income, but the £20,000 given under the Act proved insufficient.*

1395. But was not the £20,000 which was given to the Board under the Act of 1903, through the development grant, a method of getting over the difficulty created by the refusal of the Treasury to increase the Parliamentary grant a year earlier?—I don't recollect that the Treasury had any part in it. I don't, so in other cases, that the emergency has arisen later; that after the Act had passed it was found that the growth of the business could not be met by the addition of the £20,000 a year given under the Act.

1396. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That is to say they made a mistake in not making the Parliamentary grant larger?—If everybody could have foreseen future developments.

1397. They thought £20,000 would cover the loss on the purchase of land. It turns out that it has not, and what you are now asking for is an addition to that Parliamentary grant of £20,000 a year?—Quite so.

1398. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—In the Act of 1903 is there any limit to the value of the unencumbered land which the Congested Districts Board may hold at a time?—Yes. It is thirty times the interest on the Church surplus grant. That makes £1,320,000.

1399. Of unencumbered land?—Of unencumbered land. 1400. If it is suggested that each is the limit do you think the Congested Districts Board has got it a very rapid pace in buying the amount of unencumbered land at present in its hands?—No. They have only bought one-fourth that amount of unencumbered land since the 1903 Act passed.

1401. They have only exercised one-fourth of the capacity suggested to them by Parliament, although, as Mr. Bryce has said, they are seeing the lands to which rights might be transferred passing right before their eyes away from that purpose altogether?—Quite so.

1402. Mr. BRYCE.—Have you any view yourself as to whether this £400,000 a year is likely to provide all the unencumbered land wanted for the relief of the congested districts?—The additional £30,000 a year?

1403. The additional £20,000, a year calculated as being part of the loss on £400,000 a year?—As far as the Board can see at present it would meet the loss.

1404. But do you think the £400,000 a year turn over would be an adequate turnover completely to meet the requirements?—I cannot say that it would be an adequate turn over.

1405. If the Board could have more they would be very glad to have more?—It is speaking plainly, an urgent necessity that more should be turned over, because the land available for purchase is rapidly being sold, passing from the hands of the owners into those of the new purchasers who will bid on to it.

1406. Therefore, this £400,000 which they aim at at the moment is rather a minimum than a maximum; that is to say you have no doubt you would not be able to meet the actual loss on purchasing more, and therefore you are only asking for the £20,000, but if you could get £20,000, £40,000 or £50,000 you would

* See Mr. Wyndham's Memorandum of 6th July, 1902, handed in by Sir Denis O'Hare, p. 536.

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is better satisfied?—Yes. To speak plainly the Board hardly like to ask for as much money as they think they ought to have.

1407. Mr. O'KELLY.—What is the value of your annual purchases for the past three years since the Act passed?—About £400,000 a year on the average. The total is about £1,200,000. That would be approaching £400,000 a year.

1408. I mean of grass lands?—About £450,000 worth altogether of land has been bought each year.

1409. You have now about £1,200,000 worth of property in lands?—Yes.

1410. You expect repayment from the Land Commission early next year of a sum of about £40,000?—Part of that has been already received. The greater part comes into this year, and next year there will be only the remainder of £10,000 or £15,000.

1411. Were it not for what I might describe as your good luck in having this £60,000 to credit you could not be able to dispose of this £1,200,000 worth of property for about four years to come?—No. The rain, instead of occurring next March, would have occurred two years ago.

1412. And even with these sums to lose plus £11,000 justly available for you as annual income it will take at least four years to dispose of the property you have now in your hands?—It is very likely.

1413. You will agree that the recent circulars of the Treasury have placed the Board in a rather critical position?—They have, although the Treasury are not exactly to blame.

1414. I mean that if the declared intention of these circulars is carried out the Board will find itself in a very critical condition?—They will. The Board's speed is really made to the Government to further the policy that they commenced in 1891, and which they have liberally assisted up to the present.

1415. If the Government agree with the Treasury, and if they refuse to give you the advance you have sought, then the Board will undoubtedly be reduced to a position of impotence?—Yes.

1416. Do you think if the Treasury relaxed its position and gave you the £20,000 additional you sought, your Board would be able to make such progress as would satisfy the requirements of the congested districts?—I don't think the progress they would make one that could be considered very satisfactory.

1417. Even though the £20,000 the Board sought recently were granted?—It would enable the Board to do three times as much as its present income permits, but if the Board could deal with double as much land it would still require the operations to be continued for a great many years before they had dealt with all the poor estates and poor holdings that they have to deal with.

1418. You could not tell me within what period you would estimate that this congested districts problem would be settled by the increase in your annual income of £20,000?—I think on that point Mr. Doran might possibly be able to give you information.

1419. If you look at page 6 of Memorandum B you will observe that in the scheduled areas there are 98,000 uneconomic holdings to be dealt with—that is holdings under £5 valuation?—No; that is the number of holdings in the congested districts.*

1420. To make these holdings economic, this memorandum says, a million acres of arable land worth 10s. an acre, or £200,000 yearly, will be required to raise them to the valuation of £50, the figure at which they become economic?—Quite so.

1421. This memorandum also says this unrented land cannot be acquired for less than £14,000,000, that is, twenty-eight years' purchase?—These figures were given to the Board by Mr. Doran a year or two ago.

1422. You think they can be fairly well relied upon?—Yes, but of course Mr. Doran did not mean to imply that it was certain if the Board had this money that they could get that land. He was showing the need there was for land, and what an enormous amount of land would be required to place the poorer holdings in the West in a decent position.

1423. Of course since you admit that there are 98,000 holdings under £5 valuation to be dealt with,

and if you wish to make these economic?—£8,000 is the whole number, but 55,000 is the number under £4 valuation.

1424. It says here: It is only necessary to refer to the fact that there are in the congested districts about 98,000 holdings at an average valuation of about £5 per family?—Yes. The poor law valuation averages £5 per family.

1425. That is to say the holding is uneconomic?—Yes.

1426. That is what I was just saying. On page 6 of the same memorandum you state that the lowest annual turn over of land would be represented by a sum of £200,000?—Yes, the very lowest.

1427. At that rate of progress, even though the Treasury acceded to the Board's recent demand for an increased income, it would take you exactly forty-six and two-third years to deal with congestion in the scheduled areas?—That is assuming that this goal can never be reached unless it is possible to obtain £24,000,000 worth of land.

1428. Surely if you have 98,000 uneconomic holdings in the scheduled areas, and if you have several thousand uneconomic holdings in the unscheduled areas, considerably more than £24,000,000 worth of land must be acquired if the question in the unscheduled areas is to be dealt with as the question in the scheduled areas is to be dealt with. If you got the £20,000 to lose in addition to the £11,000 at present available from your income, it would take you forty-six and two-third years from this date to deal with congestion in the scheduled areas?—It would; if the maximum of all work before the Board were within what I might call the sphere of practical politics.

1429. If the Treasury persist in confining you to an expenditure of £140,000 per annum, assuming that you could purchase and re-sell in one year land covered by that amount, it would take fully 300 years from this date to deal with the scheduled districts?—It would make the Board's task hopeless.

1430. You are aware there are several thousands of uneconomic holdings excluded by the present definition?—There are no doubt, outside the scheduled areas.

1431. When do you expect that the uneconomic holdings outside the scheduled areas will be reached if it takes forty-six and two-third years to deal with the scheduled areas, assuming that the Treasury concede the £20,000 additional per year asked for?—You must remember there is another Department at work, the Estates Commissioners. Of course it is possible the result of your inquiry may lead to the extension of the congested districts so as to include in the Board's areas some of these uneconomic holdings that are now outside it, but it is evident there is plenty of work for both Departments.

1432. In any case you state that £14,000,000 is the price estimated by Mr. Doran as necessary to pay for the unrented land which must be acquired to render the 98,000 holdings in the scheduled areas economic?—A million acres.

1433. Don't you think that the people in the congested counties expect that this problem of congestion ought to be solved in at most ten years?—I think Mr. Wyndham in introducing the Land Act mentioned the term of fifteen years, during which it was hoped that all the tenants would become peasant proprietors.

1434. Mr. BAYNE.—The tenants all over Ireland generally?—Yes.

1435. Mr. O'KELLY.—If the Treasury were to persist in its present attitude it would, as you know, take forty-six and two-third years to deal with congestion in the scheduled areas?—It would.

1436. Suppose it was dealt with in ten years, you should dispose of £1,400,000 worth each year, and at 4 per cent that would mean you should have an annual income to lose of £118,000?—Quite so.

1437. And even if you had this large sum to lose, is it not possible, unless some special legislation were passed giving the Board the right to claim certain lands now, that before the end of the ten years a great amount of this land would have passed beyond your reach?—Yes. The Board, having that in view, have expressed the opinion that compulsory powers ought to be obtained.

1438. Upon that subject I think in Memorandum B you say the Congested Districts Board have already communicated their views to the Government as to the compulsory principle?—Yes.

* A Return since obtained shows that the number of holdings is 85,000.

† The only communication to Government was the publication of the Resolution as to compulsory powers contained in the Board's Fourth Annual Report to the Land Commission.

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1439. Is that document to be treated as a confidential document?—That is for the Government to say. The Board in their fourth report published a resolution which is, perhaps, so well known that it does not require to be read now, but if you wish I can refer you to the words.

1440. I am not referring to that, but I noticed in the memorandum that the Congested Districts Board have contemplated their views as to compulsory powers. You would not like to go into that, as to what that communication was without consulting the Board?—No; I would rather ask permission. Here is the resolution in the fourth report:—"That the Congested Districts Board in its possession of information through its inspectors that there are large tracts of land that could be used to enlarge the holdings of small occupiers and promote schemes of migration. The Board are, however, of opinion that it would be impossible for them to give due effect to this important department of their work unless more funds were placed at their disposal, and compulsory powers given to them to acquire such lands at their true value." That is in the fourth report for 1895.

1441. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—When you say the Board will require an increase of income of £30,000 a year to enable it to take over annually 400,000 worth of land do you hope, that under that arrangement, within a reasonable number of years the problem of congestion will be solved?—No; everything ought to be done on a larger scale, but, of course, it depends a great deal on the Estates Commissioners disposing of what is outside of the Board's area if that area is not enlarged.

1442. I will put it in another way. Besides solving the problem of congestion by adding to the extent of the farms of landholders, are there any other ways of solving the problem?—Yes, Mr. Doran will give you a more reliable opinion on these points than I can, but I may say the Board are endeavouring to relieve congestion in many ways, by fisheries industries, and so forth.

1443. You have 68,000 holdings in the congested areas at a valuation of £5 on the average?—Yes.

1444. Was it thought when the Board made application for an increase of funds that the economic conditions of all these small landholders would be benefited by an increase to their farms?—The Board were not looking so far ahead. They were only hoping to deal with the amount of land that they now have, and with a very moderate amount in each succeeding year.

1445. Are not many of these landholders living along the coast?—They are.

1446. And others pretty near the coast?—They are.

1447. And when the Board hoped to meet the general problem of congestion in the west by a notable increase to their funds annually was it their idea that their operations in land would tell over all those 68,000 small holders, or only over a very limited number of them?—Only a very limited number of them; that is, they cannot expect to reach the whole of them. I think Mr. Doran's view is, if all were perfectly willing to migrate, and sufficient grass land was obtainable they might all be reached.

1448. Mr. O'Kelly's calculation as to forty-six two-third year is perfectly correct, looking to the number of small holders, but, looking on the other hand to the proportion of small holders that will be benefited by operations of this class, the number of years would fall far short of the number mentioned?—It would.

1449. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—With reference to that resolution which you have read, I want you to explain to me what was the opinion of the Board in passing it; what was the opinion it was really supposed to express; what this resolution says is that it will be impossible to give due effect to this important department of the Board's work unless more funds are placed at the Board's disposal, and compulsory powers given. The reason they want more funds placed at their disposal is because such a vast quantity of land has come into their hands under the voluntary system?—Yes, at present.

1450. And if compulsory powers were given it would mean multiplying the amount of land coming into

their hands by an indefinite amount?—There is a distinction between land and land. The Board have a very large quantity of land, chiefly tenanted land. What they want to relieve congestion is untenantable land. That is very difficult to get. It must be bought at a very high price.

1451. Are we to take it that compulsory powers are asked for specifically with respect to untenantable land, and not with regard to tenanted property?—Quite so.

1452. In passing the resolution, that being so, it was intended to ask for compulsory powers that would take an estate, and take the untenantable land out of the estate by compulsion, and leave the tenanted land without touching it in the landlords' hands?—No. The Board have never attempted to purchase the untenantable land and leave the tenanted land. It is dealing with a particular estate they insist on buying with the tenanted land as much untenantable land as is necessary to improve those holdings.

1453. Then in exercising compulsory powers on that principle the Board would be compelled to buy, not merely untenantable land, but the whole estate?—The real question is as to the means of acquiring untenantable land, where there are no tenants. The untenantable land, which the Board wish to obtain is land in the County Roscommon, and other places where there are no tenants.

1454. That means an estate that is all untenantable land?—Yes, or portions of an estate. The grass lands of the County Roscommon are a considerable distance from the congested area.

1455. Of course a grave resolution like this must have been thoroughly examined from all points of view before a body like the Congested Districts Board would pass it. What I am really asking these questions for is to try to get information as to what the really means, I understand you to say that it is a principle of the Congested Districts Board not to separate any portions of an estate when they purchase, but to purchase the whole estate; is not that so?—Yes.

1456. Therefore, if the compulsory powers are to be exercised to acquire untenantable land it obviously must apply also to tenanted land if the Board continue this principle?—If there is tenanted land in the same owner's lands the Board generally buy the whole. If an owner of lands has a large untenantable estate the Board wish for compulsory powers to obtain that estate at a reasonable price.

1457. My reason for asking was in reference to what was said with respect to new losses. I want to know, in your opinion at all events, would not giving the Board compulsory powers to acquire in the Board's hands more whole estates than they have now, and that what they have now acquired at the rate of £300,000 a year is costing this annual loss, would not it increase the annual loss?—The re-selling of the grass land is not causing the loss. It is the dealing with it, the re-selling of the improved holdings.

1458. But, in purchasing an estate, that is a thing they have to contemplate?—Purchasing the untenantable land is no loss, because, as Mr. Doran will tell you, he can graze that land and work it independently at a profit.

1459. But how does that tally with the Congested Districts Board principle never to buy part of an estate, but the whole of the estate?—Within the congested districts they buy all the tenanted land, as well as the untenantable if the tenanted holdings require re-arranging. Outside the congested districts they don't want to buy tenanted lands. If they do, it is for the purpose of obtaining the untenantable land on the same estate.

1460. Am I right in understanding that explanation that what is meant here by compulsory powers is compulsory powers to acquire land outside the scheduled areas?—Not altogether there. There are considerable tracts of untenantable land within the congested districts.

1461. Am I right or wrong in the conclusion that if this principle was accepted, and the resolution of the Board was effected, it would enormously multiply and multiply the quantity of land immediately in the hands of the Congested Districts Board, and

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(debt, by the accumulation of lands to be dealt with, increase the annual loss?—No. There are two answers to that. One is, the Board would not buy more land than they could reasonably deal with. Another is, the land they would buy would not lead to an annual loss, but to an annual profit.

1402. If they don't buy more land than they can deal with can they deal with their present land with their present income?—The vast bulk of the land involved at present is tenanted land. It is on the basis of land they lose the money.

1403. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The existence of compulsory powers would not require the Congested Districts Board to exercise those powers in respect of an estate in which they did not see their way to deal with it if not at a profit at least in a simple manner. Therefore, if there were any talk of untenantable land attached to an estate on which there were a great many tenanted holdings which the Congested Districts Board did not wish to get, they would not exercise their compulsory powers in respect of that estate. It would be at their option either to purchase or to leave it alone, and the Board have one advantage in some cases; that is, unless the landlord tells what the Board consider a fair proportion of the untenantable land they can refuse to declare it to be an estate, and he cannot get the bonus.

1404. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—You mean the Estates Commissioners?—No, the Board. The Board have the power of declaring a property to be an estate.

1405. Do you mean without the concurrence of the Estates Commissioners?—Dealing with their own estates. The Board having an estate can declare that property to be an estate, and entitle the vendor to the bonus.

1406. There is a power on the part of the Congested Districts Board to decide what is an estate, concurrent with the power of the Estates Commissioners?—Quite so.

1407. There are two authorities settling what is an estate?—Yes; not the same estate. Each deals with its own estate. I imagine that the original object of this system of declaring an estate was not intended to apply to an estate bought by either department. I saw no doubt it was intended to apply originally to estates which were being sold direct by the landlord to the tenant, and the legislature wished to prevent the landlord selling small uneconomic holdings to the tenants and retaining his untenantable lands in his own hands. This power would interdict that by saying, "You are not to sell only these uneconomic holdings and get the bonus."

1408. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—But the power of declaring an estate is exercised by resolution of the whole Board, of the Congested Districts Board?—No, by a declaration of the Board.

1409. The CHAIRMAN.—In answer to Sir John Connor and Sir Francis Mowatt with respect to the cases they put to you, namely, that if there were any talk of untenantable land with tenanted land lying around it, and you had compulsory powers, it would not be probable, would it, that the Board would exercise its compulsory powers in purchasing the untenantable land there, leaving the tenanted land upon the hands of the landlord, for this reason, that the untenantable land would obviously be the means of relieving the congestion upon the tenanted portion of the estate?—Yes, unless it happened that all the holdings were sufficiently large already. If there was to be security to enlarge them the Board might reasonably object to buying them, and might say, "we want the untenantable lands for other uneconomic holdings in the district, but we don't want to interfere with these tenants who can purchase direct from the landlord."

1410. Of course, if the holdings were economic there would not be the same necessity for the Board to assist in purchase?—No.

1411. But it would create great local friction if any attempt were made to buy the untenantable land of a certain estate, and migrate to that land people from another estate or another district if you left the uneconomic tenanted land lying unimproved?—Quite so. It would never occur under the Board's system.

1412. Dr. O'DONNELL was dealing with that question of the number of years in which the congested areas could be bought up at the rate of £400,000 a

year, and I think you said it would take forty-six and two-third years?—At the rate of £300,000 a year.

1413. In answer to Dr. O'DONNELL you said if that portion of the population was excluded, which cannot reasonably be considered to depend on agriculture, it would be easier to settle the congested problem, much more quickly?—That is excluding those who cannot be reached by the Board's estate operations.

1414. What I presume you mean by that is that there are certain people living principally along the sea-coast where the land is so poor that it is hardly worth while for the Board to attempt to turn that land into economic holdings. Is that what I understood you to mean?—The people along the sea-coast have some hope in the fisheries, but they have no hope in the direction of obtaining their living by agriculture unless they migrate.

1415. The people you had in your mind an answer, Dr. O'DONNELL are the people who depend on other things besides agriculture for their living?—Quite so.

1416. Does not that mean that if you devote the whole of the land purchase operations of the Board to people who have not got those secondary sources of income, you throw those people entirely upon fisheries and other industries for their living?—Yes. You don't leave them as they are. They now derive some portion of their subsistence from the land, so Mr. Meade's family belongs show in the First Report, but the Board's work would be to improve these subsidiary means of subsistence.

1417. You take up the position of saying that the land they at present occupy is so bad that it is hardly worth while dealing with it, and they must look to other things?—It is unimprovable in some districts.

1418. You must, therefore, look to other things, fisheries, industries, and so on, to improve their lot?—Quite so.

1419. Do you believe it would be possible to improve the fisheries to such an extent or establish industries in these parts such as will really put those people into a position of comfort?—No, I don't. They will never reach what you would consider a satisfactory condition.

1420. You think that they will never reach a satisfactory condition?—I am afraid not.

1421. Therefore, don't you think, with the exception of a very few who perhaps may derive something substantial from the fisheries—people like the Aran Islanders—don't you think the alternative for them is one of emigration or migration?—What they should do, and what I believe ultimately they will do, will be to migrate. Some will emigrate, but the best thing is to leave those out of consideration, because they are no longer in the Board's hands, and no longer members of the community, but the people in the West will, no doubt, in time accustom themselves to the idea of migration and lose their dislike of it.

1422. If they don't emigrate—which I hope they won't—they will have to migrate?—Yes.

1423. The land they have or can get in their immediate neighbourhood is not sufficient to support them, and industries and fisheries cannot be developed sufficiently to put them into a satisfactory condition?—No.

1424. Therefore you have got to get them out of where they are now?—Yes.

1425. They have got to go to America or another part of Ireland?—Yes.

1426. If they go to another part of Ireland, won't the expense fall upon you just the same as if the land around where they are now was improvable; won't you have the expense of transplanting them and providing the land to which you transplant them?—Yes; that is, of course, being done now on a small scale. The Board are carrying out such operations at present.

1427. But the point I want to make out really is, is it your case that you cannot settle the congested problem in the West at the rate of £300,000 a year, in a less number of years than forty-six?—You mean the cases excluded by Dr. O'DONNELL must ultimately be dealt with?

1428. Yes?—Looking a long way ahead, they may be reached, but of course if some migrate a considerable number will, no doubt, remain on the sea-coast, and the land will never be vacated altogether.

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1480. They are only a small proportion of 511—taking south Connemara, where the land is good for nothing, and there is no such thing as agriculture, there will always be a few people there, no doubt, and the fewer the better.

1490. Therefore, really, you cannot exclude many of the present population of the West. You have got to take all the population into account before you can say you have dealt with the congested problem?—Yes. I may say that at present the Board have, I want say deals with, but have reached 15,000 tenants out of the 85,000. Of course a great many of these, a very large number, have uneconomic holdings, but even if the Board sell uneconomic holdings, they don't give up the hope of subsequently enlarging the holdings if they are able to obtain land.

1491. Mr. O'KELLY.—You suggest, or it was suggested by the Bishop, that a certain number of holdings along the western coast, the occupants of which are engaged in fishing, must be deducted from the 85,000, and consequently the amount of land indicated in that report would not be needed to relieve the congestion?—Their exclusion is a matter of time.

1492. Let me assume that we did drop these holdings along the western coast, would not the addition of uneconomic holdings in the non-scheduled districts more than exceed the number that might be deducted from the 85,000 holdings in respect of these holdings along the coast?—I quite see, if I understand your meaning, that in dealing with congestion the Board might buy estates outside the boundaries of the congested districts, and in that way bring in more uneconomic holdings. That is the case. My point is this. You have 85,000 holdings to deal with. You might urge with good reason along the western coast that the occupants of what would be from the agricultural point of view uneconomic holdings have still the fisheries to rely on, and therefore should be excluded from the 85,000. If you exclude those from the 85,000, that number will be more than exceeded by the number that may be included in respect of uneconomic holdings in unscheduled areas—I quite agree with you. Mr. Doran has prepared an interesting map which will illustrate this very point.

1493. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Bearing on that point, as one who is somewhat sanguine about the possibility of solving the problem of congestion, I would like to draw from you some admission as to the very substantial reduction in that number of 85,000 holdings. Carry your mind for a moment to the DeLisson estate. Is not it a fact that since that estate was sold to the tenants under the auspices of the Congested Districts Board, quite a number of holdings not previously economic have become economic through reclamation?—I believe that is so.

1494. If that be so, I ask you, is not it a fact that we might look to a very large portion of the uneconomic holdings in the west of Ireland being improved in such a way and made economic?—Independently of the Board, no doubt.

1495. I would rather say under the auspices of the Board and under the treatment of the Board?—Under the auspices of the Board, but when I said independently, I meant after re-sale.

1496. If under the spell of ownership with a little encouragement, such as the Board is capable of giving, people move in the direction of making uneconomic holdings economic, might not we also look to a great improvement in the resources of the people by improved methods of agriculture?—Certainly. Mr. Doran has always been of opinion that the agricultural value might be increased by half, or even doubled.

1497. By improved means of tillage and by planting here and there in congested districts agricultural instructions who will teach the people how to make the most of the land—in such ways as these their economic condition can be improved. Do you not think it reasonable to say that the problem of improving is not co-extensive with that of increasing 85,000 holdings?—Yes. I think I said I thought the estimate of £14,000,000 worth of land was a very outside estimate and hardly one likely ever to be realised as a matter of practical business.

1498. But the point put to you both by the Chairman and Mr. O'Kelly is very important, that besides the small holdings in scheduled areas there are many small occupiers in unscheduled areas?—There are.

1499. Shall we be able to get from Mr. Doran an estimate of how far through reclamation, and what I may call the magic of ownership and improvement in agriculture, an economic standard can be reached by many of these holders?—I am sure he can give the Commission a very good opinion on the point. I don't think he can give a definite return.

1500. Mr. O'KELLY.—Are you aware that in the County Mayo alone 8,000 occupiers are included under 24 valuation, and three-fourths of the 8,000 occupiers are under 24 valuation in the fifty electoral divisions that do not answer to the definition of congested?—That is an enormous proportion.

1501. CHAIRMAN.—The next point you are going to deal with is the relations of the Congested Districts Board with the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, is it not?—Yes; those relations will appear from the following extracts from the minutes of the Board—

Extract from the Board's Third Report, p. 7.

"The efforts and work of the Hon. James Plunkett, one of the members of our Board, in the advancement of co-operative dairying are well known, and having considered the very favourable position of the numerous co-operative creameries established by or in consultation with him, we decided to vote a sum of £250 towards promoting in congested districts the objects of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, of which Mr Plunkett is President."

Extract from the Board's Fourth Report, p. 7.

"During the year a sum of £165 0s. 2d. was paid to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society to enable that body to extend the benefits of co-operation to occupiers of land in congested districts. The amount of the grant voted to the Society was £300, and as soon as that amount is expended, an account shall be given as to the steps taken by the Society for the promotion of their object."

Extract from Board Minutes of March, 1894.

"In view of the success which has attended co-operative dairying in Ireland, the Congested Districts Board are anxious to see the principle of co-operation applied wherever possible to the promotion of agriculture and other industries. The Board accordingly will pay the sum of £250 to the Irish section of the Co-operation Union for the purpose of training operators who will, when trained, promote co-operative dairying in congested districts in Ireland."

Extract from the Board's Minutes, 16th April, 1894.

"As Messrs. Plunkett and Anderson have reported favourably upon an application from Aughadowa district, the Board decided to grant a loan of £200 on the same principle as the loan made to the Shillbreen Dairy Society, for the establishment of an auxiliary creamery at Aughadowa."

Extract from Board Minutes, 12th October, 1894.

"On the suggestion of Mr. Porter, the Board authorised the purchase and re-sale of such and sundries to small occupiers in congested districts the expenditure under the scheme not to exceed £500; and the Board further approved a proposal made by Mr. Plunkett, that the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society should be asked to organise local associations for carrying out the project on co-operative principles. The Board delegated to the Finance Committee the settlement of the details of the scheme, and a sum of £200 is voted for the expense of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society in connection with the execution of the scheme."

This minute was rescinded on the 14th of December, 1894, as will appear from the following—

Extract from Minutes of Board Meeting held on 14th December, 1894.

"On the recommendation of the Land Committee of the 4th December, 1894, it was decided that a sum of £200 be granted for the purchase of seeds and"

grasses for sale in congested districts through the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission, apart from any scheme of a similar nature to be carried out by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society (Limited).

"The draft scheme for the development of the egg and poultry industry in the congested districts, as submitted by the Secretary of the Agricultural Organisation Society, is approved generally, but it is considered desirable that the scheme should be for the present put into operation in one district only. The Board agreed to make the following grants in respect of the selected district:—

(a.) A grant of £25 towards the expenses of organising an Agricultural Co-operative Society, the primary object of which would be to develop the egg and poultry industry.

(b.) A further grant sufficient to pay the salary of an expert egg sorter and pocker. The name of the expert and the terms of his engagement to be approved by the Board.

(c.) A loan of £100 to cover the capital expenditure of the proposed Society—this amount is considered sufficient to purchase two pens and spring cart, and to repair any building necessary for storage, washing, &c.

"The loan is to be made on such terms as may be agreed upon, and the repayment to be guaranteed by the personal security of the members of the proposed Society or a section of them, interest being calculated at 2½ per cent.

"With reference to the Board's minute of the 12th October, 1894, as to the purchase and re-sale of seeds and manures to small occupiers in congested districts, the Board, having considered the representations made by Messrs. Porter and Anderson, are of opinion that the work of the Agricultural Department, and the Agricultural Organisation Society respectively, should be carried on independently, regard, however, being had to the functions of the Agricultural Department, which is to develop agriculture by encouraging the use of seeds, manures, and implements, to which heretofore farmers have not been accustomed, and thus prepare the way for the Agricultural Organisation Society to organise local associations to enable farmers to supply their own wants. The minute of the 18th October, 1894, is accordingly rescinded, and in lieu of the grants therein referred to, a grant of £200 is to be made to the Agricultural Organisation Society for the organisation of Agricultural Co-operative Societies in congested districts on the lines indicated in the scheme referred to in the previous minute."

Note.—The agricultural department above mentioned is the agricultural branch of the Congested Districts Board.

Extract from Board Minutes, 18th March, 1896.

"On reading a letter, dated 17th March, 1896, from the Secretary to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, Limited, asking the Board to sanction the expense of sending an expert to assist the co-operative societies at Bohola and Killybeg in the purchase of their seeds and manures, it was resolved that the Board cannot make any grant or take any steps that would place them in the position of joining in the executive work of any co-operative society."

Extract from Board Minutes, 15th January, 1897.

"A letter dated 15th December, from Mr. R. A. Anderson, was considered, asking whether the Board would grant a sum of money for defraying the expenses of organising co-operative societies for the sale of seeds and manures, and it was resolved that the Board, while fully recognising the necessity of teaching the farmers in the congested districts to organise for business purposes, and the valuable work that has been done in this direction by the I. A. O. Society under present circumstances, request Mr. Flinnick to postpone his application."

Extract from Board Minutes, 22nd October, 1897. Sept. 22, 1906

"On consideration of Mr. Flinnick's proposals the Board decided to place a sum of £160 at his disposal for the purpose of organising agricultural credit societies at Banks in the congested districts, on the understanding that the organiser employed for this purpose is not to be employed in the other branches of the organising work of the Agricultural Organisation Society while engaged in this work."

I may add that the following payments have been made by the Board to the I. A. O. Society for the cost of organising and inspecting agricultural banks and co-operative societies:—

	£	s.	d.
August, 1896,	250	0	0
Year 1901-2,	583	11	9
" 1902-3,	331	3	6
" 1903-4,	130	4	10
" 1904-5,	651	6	11
" 1905-6,	353	10	2
" 1906-7,	145	15	9
Total,	2,545	12	11

Of this total £2,330 1s. 8d. was for the Banks, and £175 11s. 8d. for co-operative societies.

The only loans made to the co-operative societies were £400 to the Slieve Donard Co-operative Dairy Co., and £80 to the Killybeg Co-operative Society. Both of these loans have been repaid.

I may also refer to the following statement from Mr. Russell, of the Agricultural Organisation Society:—

"The Irish section of the Co-operative Union was formed before the I.A.O.S. The Co-operative Union is the union of Co-operative Societies in England, Ireland, and Scotland. Mr. J. C. Grey is the Secretary of the English section of the Co-operative Union. There is also a Scottish section, with their own organisation, affiliated to the English section. At the beginning of the co-operative movement in Ireland there were a certain number of societies started. An Irish section was formed, and the Co-operative Union gave a small subsidy I believe of £200 or £300 a year. Sir Horace Plunkett then found out that since on the English plan would not be so useful as co-operation applied to agriculture, and, as the Co-operative Union were running stores, and did not care about our plan of agricultural co-operation, their small subsidy was stopped, and the I.A.O.S. was created in 1894 to carry on the work of agricultural organisation. The Irish section of the Co-operative Union of stores on the English plan became amalgamated with the Scottish section, and for about ten years, I think, any organisation of stores in the North of Ireland was carried on under the auspices of the Scottish section. I believe that lately the Irish section has been created again, but I am not quite sure of that, though I should imagine that the number of Store Societies in the North of Ireland would very soon necessitate an Irish section, if it is not already in existence."

I may add that the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society established many village libraries, and in 1902 the Board made a grant of £5 to each of eighteen of these libraries in the congested districts to provide books. Subsequently, the Department of Agriculture undertook the management of this business, and the Board have made similar grants in many other cases through that Department.

1892. CHAMBERLAIN.—Is there anything else you wish to say?—I wish to make an explanation as to a statement in my evidence on Saturday. I said that the County Leitrim no longer came within the definition of congested. I did not mean to convey that there had been an improvement in the condition of the people since 1861, and that this improvement had raised them above the level of congestion. The fact is, while the poor law valuation is the same, the population has been reduced by emigration, so that the average valuation is higher per head of the population. The condition of the people can only be gauged by the poor rate. I have not been able to ascertain from

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the local taxation returns what the poor rate was in 1826 and what it is now. A comparison cannot be made from the figures that are published.

1503. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Not from the Local Government Board returns?—No. They cannot be ascertained owing to the poor rate having now been consolidated with the county ones. The Chairman had suggested I should apply to the County Councils, which I shall do.*

1504. There is only one general question I have got to ask you. The Congested Districts Board were created—I am quoting from the Act—for aiding migration or emigration from an electoral division?—Yes.

1505. During its existence has any question of emigration ever come up in a practical form?—The matter was considered by the Board shortly after it was formed. Mr. Tuke, who was one of the first members had been a great advocate of emigration, and had assisted a large number of people to emigrate, but the Board decided that they would not assist emigration.

1506. The Board have decided that one of the purposes for which they were created shall not be carried out?—Yes. One very good reason for that would be they have enough to do, and more than enough to do, under the other heads.

1507. In those places, where men with families have perhaps big sons, who have gone to Canada, Australia, or elsewhere, when being consulted about migration are they ever asked whether they would

prefer to emigrate altogether?—The Board never suggest to any of the people that they should emigrate. 1508. Do the people understand that they might have the option of doing one or the other if it suited their family arrangements?—They require no telling. Those who have friends in America, and know whom to go to, are willing to go, provided they can get the money.

1509. I am not talking about individuals, but whole families. You say a man is a fit subject for migration. He may have sons in Canada, Australia, or somewhere else. You say to him: "Will you go to Roscommon or somewhere else; we want to do you good." What I want to know is, does this man understand, if he prefers to join his sons abroad, that there is a possibility of his being able to go out to them, provided he gives up his holding, that the Board will help him; has anything at all of that sort been done?—No. The Board, in some few cases, have bought the holdings of people who had intended to emigrate, in such cases as that of people who were not in a position to work their farms owing to their having no able-bodied men in the family; and these fragments of families have emigrated.

1510. Without any assistance from you at all. They have no doubt used the money obtained by selling their holdings, but the Board never assisted any of them by a grant for the purpose of emigration. Selling their holdings is a transaction quite apart from the emigration. After they have sold their holdings they would have the means of going.

1511. Mr. KAYNAGE.—The Board have never taken up emigration as part of their policy?—Never.

* Owing to changes in the composition of the rate the Poor Rates struck before and since the passing of the Local Government Act of 1898 cannot be compared. It appears, however, from the Annual Reports of the Local Government Board that during the past twelve years the rate levied on the owner of persons in the Workhouses and the population of the Union has been almost stationary, but that the average cost of maintenance has increased about 26 per cent., and that the cost of Outdoor Relief has, as a rule, increased about 25 per cent. These figures relate to the Unions which contain scheduled districts.

The Commission adjourned.

FOURTH PUBLIC SITTING.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1906,

AT 10.30 A.M.

At 35, Dawson-street, Dublin.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUDLEY, G.C.V.O. (Chairman); The Right Hon. Sir ANTONY MACDONNELL, G.C.B.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMR, K.C.M.G.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; CONOR O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAUGH, Esq., D.L.; ANDREW SWYERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. J. R. O'BRIEN examined.

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1312. The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. O'Brien, you are the Assistant-Secretary of the Congested Districts Board?—I am the Assistant-Secretary and Accountant, a position I have held since 1892, just immediately after the formation of the Board.

1313. There are certain points with regard to the names of the Congested Districts Board which I think you are prepared to tell us something about?—Yes, with the explanation that myself and Mr. Mitchell divided to a certain extent the loads of office, and as I was associated with Mr. Mills in the earlier stages of the Board's work I have made some notes of some questions put to Mr. Mills, if there is any point that you require information on. The first one is the Constitution of the Board. The Board was constituted under section 34 of the Purchase of Land Act (Ireland), 1891. It consists of ten members in all, viz.—Two ex-officio members, five other members appointed by the Crown, and in addition three temporary members also appointed by the Crown. One of the ex-officio members is the Chief Secretary, and the other the Under-Secretary, who replaced the Lord Lieutenant nominated by the Lord Lieutenant to generally represent Agriculture and Forestry in pursuance of section 64 of the Land Act of 1903. The Board is to continue for twenty years from the 25th August, 1891, and thereafter until Parliament shall otherwise determine. Then as to the administration. Under section 40 (1) of the Act the Lord Lieutenant was empowered to direct the officers of the Land Commission to discharge such secretarial and other duties as he thought proper, and for that purpose officers might be added to the permanent staff of the Land Commission. The object in having the officers attached to the staff of the Land Commission was to secure to them the right to pension, as the Board being a temporary one, employment under it would not have carried such right. As a difficulty arose with the Land Commission in carrying out these provisions, the Lord Commission having claimed the right to reassign the officers to be transferred, the provisions were repealed by section 3 of the Congested Districts Board Act, 1894. This Act empowers the Lord Lieutenant, with the sanction of the Treasury, to transfer and assign to the Congested Districts Board to appoint to the permanent staff of the Land Commission such officers as may be required for the purposes of the Act, with the proviso that every officer so appointed, not being the Secretary or Assistant-Secretary, shall be selected by open competition, in accordance with the regulations made by the Civil Service Commissioners, and approved by the Lord Lieutenant. These provisions only apply to the permanent staff. In the case of temporary officers not entitled to pension, the Board make the appointments without reference to the Lord Lieutenant or Treasury. Section 40 (3) of the Act of 1892 directed that the salaries or remuneration of officers (if any) employed by the Board, and the administrative expenses of the Board, shall be fixed by the Treasury

and paid out of moneys provided by Parliament. When the increase of the Board's work required additional officials, a question arose with the Treasury and the Board as to the meaning of this sub-section—the Treasury contending that the salaries and expenses of Inspectors and other outdoor officials, and the legal expenses of the Board should be charged against the various schemes and paid out of the Board's annual income. Up to 1894 the salaries and expenses of the indoor staff only were placed on the Parliamentary Vote, when the sum of £1,000 was added each year towards the cost of the outdoor staff. This represented a total contribution from the Parliamentary Votes of about £2,300 a year, including the cost of office, stationery, printing, postage, and telegrams up to the year 1899. Under section 5 of the Congested Districts Board Act, 1899, a Parliamentary Grant of £25,000 a year was made to the Board in lieu of the sum of £2,300 above referred to, and subject to the condition that for any sum assigned out of the Grant to the purposes of Administration, including superintendence and inspections, the Congested Districts Board should contribute from its other resources an additional sum equal to one-half. In connection with the agricultural work of the Board, it was arranged in 1891 with the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission that, under the control of Mr. Wrench, who was appointed to the Board to represent Agriculture and Forestry, they should carry out such agricultural operations as might from time to time be delegated to them by the Board. The salaries of the agricultural staff of the Land Commission were charged to the Land Commission Vote at first, but the Board subsequently agreed to pay the salaries of three clerks who were wholly engaged on their business. This arrangement continued until 1897, when it was decided that all the clerical duties in connection with the Board's agricultural work should be discharged in the Board's own office. The Board accordingly took over their agricultural business, and with it a portion of the clerical staff of the Land Commission, the services of Mr. Porter, the Superintendent of the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission, continuing to be at the Board's disposal as Special Advisor and Inspector in Agriculture and other kindred matters. In 1900, Mr. Porter was transferred to the Department of Agriculture, and he continued to act for the Board until 1904, when some of the agricultural work of the Board was taken over by the Department, with the outdoor and most of the clerical staff. In 1903, the Board, with the approval of the Treasury, allocated £50,000 out of the Fishery Loan Funds to be expended on piers, boatpools, cuneways, roads, bridges, and other miscellaneous engineering works.

1314. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Was that a special grant or was it spent by the Congested Districts Board?—It was a fishery loan fund, originally a charitable fund, which was transferred to the Board under the original Act of 1891.

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1515. A capital sum of which you had the expenditure?—Yes; we had it placed at our disposal, subject to Treasury sanction. It represented at the time about £395,000, and the Board decided to spend £250,000 out of that on ports, boatlifts, causeways, roads, bridges, &c.

1516. Is it spent now?—Yes, at an early stage of our work. In the case of marine works, as it was decided to carry them out departmentally, the Board appointed as their Engineer, the Hon. Mr. Parsons, who had under him four Resident Engineers in charge of districts. This arrangement continued until 1895, when the Board were able to dispense with Mr. Parsons's services.

The services of two of the four Resident Engineers were shortly afterwards also dispensed with. One, Mr. F. G. T. Gahan, continued to act as General Inspector until he became Land Inspector, and the fourth, Mr. C. D. Oliver, became Engineer to the Board. In 1905 Mr. Oliver and his staff were transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and under an arrangement with the Department their services are placed at the disposal of the Board for reporting on and carrying out such Engineering projects as may be referred to them from time to time.

The present Administrative Staff, including both the Permanent and Temporary Officers, consists of the following:—

INDOOR STAFF.

I.—Permanent.

- 1 Secretary.
- 1 Assistant-Secretary and Accountant.
- 1 Chief Clerk (Estates Branch).
- 1 First Class Clerk.
- 1 Book-keeper.
- 1 Collector.
- 3 Second Class Clerks.
- 4 Third Class Clerks.
- 2 Assistant Clerks.

II.—Temporary.

- 1 Solicitor.
- 65 Clerks.

OUTDOOR STAFF.

Temporary.

- 1 Chief Land Inspector.
- 1 Assistant Chief Land Inspector.
- 4 Land Inspectors.
- 3 Assistant Land Inspectors.
- 2 Land Valuers.
- 7 Land Inspector's Clerks.
- 1 Inspector of Industries.
- 1 Superintendent of Fisheries.
- 5 Local Agents.
- * Engineer (portion of time of Engineer of Department of Agriculture).

* Under an arrangement with the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction the services of their Engineer and his staff are placed at the disposal of the Board to report on and carry out such works as may be referred to him from time to time.

In addition to the above officers, whose salaries and expenses are charged under the head of Administration, the following Temporary Staff are employed, and their salaries and expenses provided for under the head of Management and Supervision of Estates, viz:—

- 15 Clerks of Works.
- 1 Chief Surveyor.
- 13 Surveyors.
- 9 Paymasters.
- 1 Grazing Stock Manager.

1517. THE CHAIRMAN.—Is there anything further to say under this head?—Yes. I should mention in connection with the administrative cost that the cost of administration should not be measured by the Board's fixed income, because we receive a large amount of money, in small sums. The total receipts last year amounted to over £255,000. For instance, we collect from a number of tenants about £50,000 a

year in rents of small amount. Then on the other side we pay out in small sums, and the transactions all round mean a very large amount of clerical labour, so that the Board's annual fixed income is not an indication of the volume of work in connection with the staff.

1518. How much does that amount to in the year?—Our administrative expenses are now about £25,000, including law costs and the staff in the country, which are charged to administration. We have officers such as surveyors and others who are not charged to administration. They are charged against the estates.

1519. Do you know what the sum is that you are receiving now either in interest upon loans or repayment of loans, or rents and things of that kind?—It is in the Annual Report, but taking the estates receipts it amounted to £20,000 last year.

1520. I see it is all in the Report?—They are all in detail.

1521. Sir JOHN CONNORS.—Did I get it down right that in small sums you receive about £25,000 a year?—About £20,000 in rents last year.

1522. Is my note right that you collect from small tenants £150,000 a year in consequence of operations connected with loans?—No. The rents would not run to that. About £50,000 a year in rents.

1523. I think it was in loan transactions?—We have a number of loan repayments. Our total receipts include a large number of small transactions, such as rents and loan repayments.

1524. Then, it was £50,000, not £150,000, you mentioned?—£50,000.

1524a. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You have given the rents and repayments under various heads £23,000?—That includes other receipts.

1525. But it includes the items of which you have been speaking?—Yes.

1526. And loans by the Board of Works?—Yes. It does not include money borrowed from the Board of Works, but it includes repayments on loans. For instance, we get in on the fishery loans about £5,000 a year in small sums.

1527. Sir JOHN CONNORS.—The Board of Works loans, are they lent to the Congested Districts Board, or are they lent to the individual tenants?—To the Congested Districts Board, and portions of them is for issue to small occupiers. We are enabled under Treasury sanction to get up to £10,000 from the Board of Works and utilise that to the extent of two-thirds in issuing loans to small tenants in addition to what we give them out of our own funds.

1528. Do you collect the interest on loans from the Board of Works from the individual tenants, or does the Board of Works collect it?—We do it. We get the money from the Board of Works in large sums, and issue it in small sums.

1529. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Would you send the figure at which you put the gross annual receipts of the Board?—£255,742. That includes everything except the cash received from the Land Commission in exchange for guaranteed land stock lodged for redemption of advances under the Land Act of 1894.

1530. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It is given in the last report as a grand total of £235,000?—That is, I think, excluding the stock transaction. Under a recent Treasury rule we are authorised to go in and buy guaranteed stock to redeem our debt to the Land Commission, and then they pay the advances over in cash. Therefore, I take the amount that we paid for stock off both sides of the account, so as not to artificially swell the total, for the purpose of endeavouring to show the volume of our work as regards the estate staff.

1531. It is not quite easy to understand how the report gives a grand total of £235,000 and you give it as £255,000?—Which report.

1532. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—You state the gross receipts vary from year to year?—Please refer to page 46 of the Report.

1533. Mr. O'KELLY.—What report is that?—That is the fourteenth report.

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1534. **SIR FRANCIS MOWATT.**—That gives the same amount?—That report that you are looking at is for 1905. My account is for 1906. That is not published yet. I only mention it to indicate the volume of the work. Then, as to the powers of the Board, on which Memorandum D has been circulated.*

1535. **THE CHAIRMAN.**—The powers of the Board?—Yes; there is one point to which I should wish to call attention. It is with reference to small holdings.

1536. Is it in the last paragraph?—The last paragraph of page 2. Perhaps I might read it, as I think it is important for the Commissioners to understand its security in these cases of advances.

1537. Is that with regard to the guarantee fund?—It will include that. I say in connection with advances under the Purchase Act the security required may be usefully considered. The security is first the charge on the land, which includes the interest of both landlord and tenant, and consequently there is in most cases a margin equivalent to the value of the tenant-right. Secondly, the guarantee given by the Board as a charge on their income for the payment of the annual instalments. The Board have power under the Act of 1903 to guarantee the instalments of their tenants when they are selling under the Land Commission, and then the Land Commission disposes with a valuation to facilitate the sale and economic administration.

1538. Let me ask one question about that. The security to the State consists in part of a guarantee by the Board on their income?—Yes, that is so.

1539. That is to say that the State is guaranteed out of the money which it provides itself against the danger of loss?—Formerly our interest on the Church Surplus Grant of £41,250 a year was part of the guarantee fund, but the Act of 1903 freed it from that, and thus gave the Board freedom for using it for other purposes. By its having been included originally in the guarantee fund we were hampered in using it for borrowing purposes. Then the third security—

1540. **SIR JOHN CONNOR.**—With regard to the guarantee given by the Board as a charge on their income for the payment of the annual instalments on property having been bought fully dealt with and completely dealt with by the Congested Districts Board, re-sold and re-arranged, it is a continuing liability of the Congested Districts Board to the Estates Commissioners for the annuities of every holder of that property, is not that so?—Yes. The Board guarantee the punctual payment of the instalments.

1541. I merely want to know the fact. There is a continuing liability for which the income of the Congested Districts Board is responsible?—Yes, but it is a continuing liability every time the tenant pays his annuity. The third security is the Guarantee Fund voted under the fifth section of the Land Purchase Act of 1903.

1542. **MR. KAVANAGH.**—How much was the guarantee fund?—It varied from year to year. At the time of the passing of the Act it was estimated at £5,000,000. It was set out in a Parliamentary paper. I don't know if this would be a convenient time—

1543. **THE CHAIRMAN.**—We should like to hear you on that point very much. All the different Acts, perhaps, might be dealt with later by the solicitor?—Yes, our solicitor will deal with any legal difficulties that have arisen and suggestions as to the remedies.

1544. With regard to A, B, and C at the bottom of page 2 in your Memorandum we should like to hear you?—The guarantee fund was created under Section 5 of the Land Purchase Act of 1903. The provisions were that there should be established a guarantee fund under the direction of the Treasury, consisting of a cash portion and a contingent portion, and in every financial year these should be paid to the cash portion of the fund, the Irish Land Duty first, and, secondly, the sum of £40,000, which in every financial year was paid out of the Consolidated Fund as the Imperial Contribution. The contingent portion of the Fund consisted of rates and contributions in lieu of rates on Government property in Ireland, grants for National education and Industrial schools, the salaries of schoolmasters and school-

mistresses of workhouses, the salaries of medical officers of workhouses, the cost of medical and surgical appliances in Ireland, and the contribution in aid of the maintenance of lunatics in Ireland in connection with the district asylums.

1545. **SIR JOHN CONNOR.**—Add the salaries of officers appointed?—Yes. These were all sums which the Exchequer contributed out of the Imperial funds. The Act of 1903 made some changes in this. It removed from the Fund the Board's income of £41,250 a year and put in the Agricultural Grant, made under the Local Government Act of 1900, which represents £737,655 a year, and the Development Grant of £185,000. There was also a sum of £70,000 payable to the Department of Agriculture added to the Fund, which made at the time of the introduction of the Land Bill of 1903 a total sum of about £5,500,000.* The cash portion of the Guarantee Fund consisted of public grants amounting to £238,886, paid to local authorities in relief of rates generally, and including the sum of £5,000 a year, formerly paid to the Royal Dublin Society, and now to the Department of Agriculture, and the sum of £40,000 a year, called the Exchequer contribution, paid to the local authorities. The contingent portion included the grant of £78,000 a year formerly payable to the National Board of Education, and now part of the endowment of the Department of Agriculture; the Intermediate Education grant of £57,340 a year. Rates on Government property £40,045 a year, National schools £1,156,500, Industrial schools £20,184, grants in relief of local taxation £211,573 and £79,000. These sums paid to local authorities or to other public bodies, in relief of local taxation or for special purposes, amount to about £5,000,000. Sixty times this sum represents a capital sum of £300,000,000, and thirty times a capital of £150,000,000, which is the guarantee to the State for advances for purchase. These cash contributions of the Imperial Exchequer to Ireland, amounting to £5,000,000 a year, represent an annuity which would pay off the entire debt of £300,000,000 for land purchase in Ireland in sixty-eight-and-a-half years, including both interest and sinking fund.

1546. **SIR FRANCIS MOWATT.**—And it is upon these figures that the theory was advanced that it was contemplated that £150,000,000 should be spent on land in Ireland?—Possibly, because the Act says that up to thirty times can be advanced without special reference to the Treasury. If it exceeds thirty times the Land Commission have to go to the Treasury for their sanction, but the maximum sum allowed is sixty times. The maximum sum that can be advanced is £150,000,000. Without Treasury sanction it is £90,000,000. The Guarantee Fund is apportioned by the Lord Lieutenant under certain regulations between the different counties. Then you multiply the share of each county by thirty to ascertain the borrowing powers of the county.

1547. **THE CHAIRMAN.**—Has it happened that you bought up to your limit in a county?—Under the old Act the Board were under a different arrangement, but they are in the same position as the Land Commission now as regards drawing against the fund. Previously the Board, being under a special arrangement, had to go to the Treasury several times to ask for authority to exceed the limit.

1548. **MR. BRYCE.**—I don't think Mr. O'Brien has answered your question, Mr. Chairman. What Lord Dudley asked was, whether in any particular county the limit under the new Act had been reached?—Not in a congested districts county.

1549. **THE CHAIRMAN.**—As Mr. O'Brien has explained, there was a special arrangement for the Board?—Under the old Act the Board had to get the Treasury sanction, but under the new Act the Land Commission and the Board draw against each county's share of the Fund. We have not approached the limit, I think.

1550. Will you go on to the next point. That is all that I think you need deal with arising out of that memorandum?—Proceedure. Under the Act constituting the Board it is provided that three members of the Board, not including the temporary members, shall form a quorum, and any act of the Board may be certified under the hands of three members.

* See Appendix III.

* See Appendix II.

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1553. I think, Mr. O'Brien, you need not go on with that!—The only thing I should like to mention in connection with procedure is that there was a careful survey made and statistics obtained for the congested districts. There was a very elaborate survey made of the districts, and I think you, my lord, got a copy of the report as to each district. The report gives for each district information as to the industries and occupations of the people, fisheries as well as industries.

1552. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Has that been handed in?—Some copies of it. The local inspector went into each district, and those matters that were discussed by Mr. Mills the other day, in connection with the "little budgets," were part of the inquiry.

1555. It did not meet that question of the congested seaboard; it did not meet the question of what should be considered the real number of the maritime population?—We did not take the Census exactly in that form, but it states whether the district is maritime or not, and what are the occupations of the people. But a Census has recently been prepared by Mr. Duran, showing the population of the maritime districts, which will be handed in by him.

1554. And did it deal with rates and also with information concerning local rates over a period antecedent to the inquiry?—Do you mean the poor rate?

1556. Yes?—No, it did not show that.

1556. The inquiry did not embrace any question as to the local rates in the district?—No. We have the returns from the Local Government Board showing the taxation in each district.

1557. Were they embodied in the report to which you refer?—No.

1558. The Commission in seeking information would have to go to other sources than the Congested Districts Board really to get at facts connected with the local taxation of the district that is dealt with?—I have taken some extracts from the Local Taxation Reports.

1559. This was in 1891-92?—In 1891-92.

1560. Did it also embrace an inquiry as to the effect of emigration of whole families for the previous seven or eight years?—No; it did not go into that question.

1561. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Have you calculated the percentage of the administrative charges against the sum administered by the Board. What is the percentage of administrative charges?—Take the collection of rents.

1562. But all over?—I have not calculated that, but take the collection of rents. The cost of the clerical staff is about two and a half per cent. on the amount collected.

1563. That would be the most expensive item of the service?—I would not say it was the most expensive. The cost of the outdoor staff, which includes officers possessing expert knowledge, would represent a greater expense.

1564. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Take Memorandum II, page 5, it works out a 36 per cent. administration. With reference to Mr. Sutherland's question, did I understand you to answer that the cost of administration was 2½ per cent?—Oh, no; I instance a particular branch; I instance the collection branch.

Mr. O'KELLY.—What is the total sum to be administered by the Board—what sum have you to deal with every year?—£233,000, is it?

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—He says £225,000.

1565. Mr. O'KELLY.—The total sum dealt with. Do you know what the actual administration expenses of the Board are?—£31,000.

1566. Mr. BAYNE.—What is the expenditure of the Board on a receipt of £234,000?—About £32,000, excluding the stock transactions.

1567. Roughly, £300,000 is the turn-over?—Say £200,000.

1568. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Does that come under five per cent. on the total turn-over, gross receipts and gross expenditure?—About twelve per cent. on receipts.

1568. As Mr. Bayne has suggested, please give the gross receipts and gross expenditure, and put them together and say what is the percentage on the total?—The percentage would be about six.

1570. Mr. BAYNE.—The total would be £300,000?—Roughly, £300,000.

1571. What percentage do the administrative expenses amount to?—That would be about six per cent.

1572. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is that administrative £20,000 included in the return of expenditure under three heads?—I am speaking of the 19th Report—it is divided into administration, technical instruction, and improvement of estates, and administration stands at £20,504-1-9, £20,504; that includes all heads of administration.

1573. Can you tell us what portion of that is applicable to the purchase of land?—Yes, I think so.

1574. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Page 5 of Memorandum II sets it out, and I was going to ask are those figures for 1905. If you take page 5, Memorandum II, signed by Mr. Mitchell, you will get the administration set out there?—Yes.

1575. That is the distribution of the Board's annual income and the actual charges included under the heading Administration not apportioned over all the general transactions?—No.

1576. The reason I ask you is that these figures of Mr. Mitchell's that I am referring to are up to 1905, and Sir Francis Mowatt was obliged to quote, not having possession information, 1905. That accounts for the difference?—Yes.

1577. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It can stand over?—Yes, very well. The next point is the scheduled area to be dealt with.

1578. The CHAIRMAN.—Is there anything on that point that you wish to say that has not been already dealt with?—No, unless the Commission wish to ask anything about the scheduling of the congested districts. There are some figures in connection with the area and population. The area of the district is 5,686,302 acres. The rateable valuation is £277,362. The population in 1901 was 505,753. The number of electoral divisions scheduled as congested is 429. These electoral divisions are situated in forty-eight Poor Law Unions and in eight counties, including County Clare. Six of the Poor Law Unions are wholly "congested": Bandon, Glenties and Dungannon in County Donegal; Beragh in County Mayo; Oughterard in County Galway; Cahoonree in County Kerry; and Castleown in County Cork. The extent to which the remaining forty-two Poor Law Unions are congested is shown in the return I hand in.* There are now 118 electoral divisions in the scheduled area, where the valuation per head of population is thirty shillings and over.

1579. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you say that the average is thirty shillings and over—you do not include below thirty shillings?—Under the Act it must be under thirty shillings, and, as I have explained, there are now 118 of the electoral divisions in the scheduled area in which the valuation per head of the population is thirty shillings and over. Twenty-one of these were scheduled specially by the Lord Lieutenant in 1892 under Section 35 of the Act, 1891. The increase in the valuation per head of population in the remaining eighty-seven electoral divisions was mainly caused by the diminution in the population owing to emigration, as disclosed in the Census of 1901. The return handed in shows the valuation per head of each congested electoral division in 1891 and 1901, respectively. The population may go down while the valuation may remain the same. This way also the rate without any improvement taking place in the district, which shows how uncertain a basis was adopted in scheduling electoral divisions according to a ratio between valuation and population. The only stress that may be made in valuation is on buildings. The valuation of land remains the same as it was in 1858, when the townland valuation was made. Any variation, which can only be small, in the congested districts, would be on the buildings.

* See p. 205.

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1592 The CHAIRMAN.—Or by decrease in population?—The decrease in population is the main cause of the alteration in the rates. The holding valuation has gone up somewhat, but it is mainly owing to the large decrease in population.

1593 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The same extent of land would have to support a less population. It is not that of some importance in connection with it?—But you must take into consideration that it is generally the young people who go out, leaving the old people in occupation, and therefore the land may not be cultivated properly. It is a loss, I take it, to the district, a drain upon it. Statistics of emigration show that the young people are going out leaving the old people at home.

1594 Mr. BRYCE.—Does that return, which you have just handed in, give the population as well as the variation, in valuation?—Yes.

1595 The CHAIRMAN.—It gives the population in 1901.—This is a return which gives the particulars from the three Censuses from 1881 to 1901.

1596 Have we got this year's valuation?—Not later than 1903.

1597 Sir JOHN COLSON.—I suppose you started with 1881 by reason of that being the year of the creation of the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

1598 Have you figures showing what took place between 1881 and 1891?—The return shows it for three decades.

1599 Mr. KAVANAGH.—Emigration, of young or old, leading to a decrease in population, means an increase in the average valuation per head?—Yes, it indicates that.

1600 It really does not matter whether the emigration was of young or old?—Just so; but it shows that the ratio varies in that way.

1601 Sir JOHN COLSON.—But how does the population affect the valuation?—The ratio of population to valuation was adopted by the Government, I think, as being the best basis to bring in certain districts. It is open to criticism. A very poor community may be excluded from the schedule owing to a good grazing farm being situated in the same electoral division.

1602 Mr. O'KELLY.—When you have got a smaller district you have a larger quotient?—Yes.

1603 Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You have said that the valuation of land remains the same as at Griffith's valuation?—Yes.

1604 In the year 1885?—1882 is the date of the Valuation Act.

1605 But is not it the fact that, as the Congested Districts Board extends its operations, the value of land on which it has operated does, in point of fact, increase?—It would not be shown in the valuation returns.

1606 It would not be shown in the valuation returns because these reproduce from year to year the valuation of 1885?—Yes; they are fixed by the prices current at that time, certain scheduled prices.

1607 But in point of fact the Congested Districts Board does improve the value of the land upon which it operates?—Certainly; but that cannot be taken into account in measuring the valuation.

1608 I am aware of that; but in order to have the value of the facts before you it would be necessary would it not, to have a re-valuation of the land on which the Congested Districts Board has operated?—Yes.

1609 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say things are worse when the young men go and the farms are left to the old people?—Yes.

1610 When the old people die what happens then?—It gets into the hands of the young men again?—If there be any young men of the family left to work it.

1611 But what I want to get at is what happens when the old people die. The young people go and leave the old men to work the farm. When the old men die what happens then?—It would be taken up by the younger people.

1612 And the result is that it leaves the farm with a less population upon it, and when the old people die off it passes into the hands of younger men?—Even if it is worked?—

1613 I should like to know if that is so. Do you accept that? The population has decreased a bit. You say that that does not really help the people. Because the young men work the farm, and when they go they leave it in the hands of old men, who cannot work the farm. Then, when the old people die don't the farms go into the possession of young men?—Well, they might or they might not.

1614 As the old generation die off must not they?—Yes. Where there are young men left.

1615 And, then, with a population less per square mile the farms are being worked by young men?—Just one point.

1616 Let us go step by step. Is not that so?—Yes, that is so; but in the case of these unconseious holdings where the people are not altogether depending on the land, but are migratory labourers, I hold that the withdrawal of those young people from the assistance of the family is a direct loss to the family remaining. Many of these districts are largely dependent on the earnings of migrants to England and Scotland every year, and those are the men very often who are going to America, and the old people do not generally benefit by their leaving. It is admitted that these people cannot live on their farms without assistance.

1617 But you do not object to migration, I understand?—No; it is emigration.

1618 How does it make a difference to the particular district or land whether the labourer, who, you say, is essential to the cultivation of that land, is withdrawn by migration to other parts of Ireland or by emigration to America?—His labour is gone!

1619 I think that you said that the younger men of the family work for the family and the farm on which the family live, and if these young men were withdrawn and their labour withdrawn it would impoverish the family and the holding. Did you say that?—Yes.

1620 How would it make any difference to that family and holding whether these young men are withdrawn to America or withdrawn by migrating to other parts of the country?—The Board have no power to migrate any individuals; they can only migrate a family. Except in very special circumstances the Board can only give a new holding to a tenant on their own estate.

1621 Surely in Mr. Doran's memorandum we find individuals migrating?—That is a whole family. You must take the farm up from the tenant and then amalgamate it with an adjoining holding, and the whole family go to the new holding; but in the other case, where an individual leaves it is different.

1622 I see a proposal here for giving land to returned emigrants or to the sons of the holders?—That would mean evicted tenants, I think.

1623 The sons of solvent farmers from any part of the country and returned emigrants would be glad to have the holdings?—They would be very glad, no doubt, and it would be very easy for the Board to dispose of grass lands in that way; but the Board's function is a very different one.

1624 Mr. BRYCE.—What you were alluding to in connection with the decrease of population, was rather, I understood, from your first explanation, the case of a poor migratory labourer who spends part of the year in England or Scotland, the other part of his time in cultivating a farm in Ireland?—Or assisting in the cultivation.

And then you referred to the fact that there would no longer be the earnings of the children of the family in the case of emigration, and that whereas the migra-

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tary labourer would go to England or Scotland for part of the year he would come back and assist in the cultivation of the farm for the rest of the year?—Yes.

1614. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Do the receipts of migration, say to England, differ from the receipts of emigration to America, as far as the home people are concerned? When labourers go to England are the receipts of their labour brought back to the homestead in Ireland?—Yes.

1615. When men emigrate to America is the proportion of their earnings that returns to Ireland a small one?—Considerably less.

1616. Are you clear on this also, that it is quite common for labourers from Mayo and Donegal after they earn money for the season in England and Scotland to return and work their farm at home during the winter months?—Yes, that is so, my lord.

1617. With reference to the young people who in the second generation take up the holding, is it to be supposed that when the young and strong of the population emigrate to America the next generation of young people will be near as vigorous and strong as if the population had not been aided by this emigration?—I think not.

1618. Do you think less emigration, such as has proceeded in Ireland, had an injurious effect upon the stamina of the population?—I don't quite follow that.

1619. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are they people in the prime of life who emigrate?—Yes, generally.

1620. They are the principal emigrants?—I have some figures here from the emigration returns of last year which show that a large proportion of them are between twenty and forty-five.

1621. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Then my point is this, that with emigration at the rate of 40,000 a year from Ireland and a birth rate so low as it is, it is not likely that each succeeding generation will be as strong in mental and physical power as the generation that went before it?—No, I think not.

1622. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Holding that to be the case, as this process has been going on for some time it is your opinion that the physical and mental qualities of the Irish race in Ireland are deteriorated?—I am afraid statistics show that they have deteriorated in many districts.

1623. The other point I wanted to ask was with reference to Sir Antony MacDonnell's question as to the valuation. Are you aware that a Committee of the House of Commons, sitting to investigate this question of the Irish valuation, has reported that in consequence of the operation of the Land Act and the system of the Land Act of 1881 the difficulties in the way of a revaluation of the land of Ireland was overpowering?—I understand that there are some difficulties.

1624. I am asking you this question. I was on the Committee myself. I think it was about three years ago?—I know the report.

1625. Do you know it—that is all I wanted to know?—I do not recollect the statement you refer to, but I have seen the report.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That a revaluation of the land of Ireland would be impossible?

Sir JOHN CONNOR.—I did not say impossible, but what I asked him was whether he was aware that a Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to examine into the question of the valuation of Ireland, and that the conclusion arrived at was to leave out all question of the valuation of land owing to the complications and difficulties created under the Act of 1881, and that the valuation must be confined chiefly to buildings.

1626-7. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—I would like to ask you with regard to the Dillon Estate, what was the loss which occurred from the fact of a mistake having been made with regard to the transfer of sporting rights?—I am not aware of any loss on the Dillon Estate.

1628. If you will refer to Memorandum A (page 2), which is one of the papers handed in with regard

to the evidence given by you?—As I explained to the Chairman, the arrangement was that Mr. Mitchell and I should each take certain heads.

1629. "The Board in contemplating the purchase of the Dillon Estate calculated upon being able to dispose of the house and the sporting rights." Is that so?—Yes. They hoped to do so.

1630. The CHAIRMAN.—Have you anything to say about the Parish Committee scheme?—This scheme was started in 1887 for the purpose of encouraging small occupiers of land in certain districts to make useful and permanent improvements in their holdings, dwellings, and surroundings by means of grants and small grants. During the first year the scheme was confined to the Sligo Union in County Mayo, but it has gradually been extended into other districts. The total number of Parish Committees formed up to the present is 156, operating in the following counties

County.	Number of Committees.
Donegal	34
Leitrim	22
Sligo	16
Mayo	44
Rooscommon	3
Galway	15
Kerry	17
Cork	8

The total amount of grants made to Committees from the commencement of the scheme to 31st March, 1905, including the cost of supervision, was £40,676. The arrangement as to supervision in counties other than Donegal is for each Committee to appoint its own supervisor subject to the Board's approval. The remuneration is usually a lump sum for the season representing about 10 per cent. on the grant, the Committee paying one-half out of the grant and the Board paying the other half. In County Donegal the Supervisors are engaged throughout the year at a salary of £1 5s. a week, with a bicycle allowance of 7s. 6d. a week, the whole of the parishes in the county being divided amongst six supervisors. During the six years ended 31st March last, for which full particulars were received, 35,333 grants or prizes, amounting to £25,159, were paid, the value of the work done being estimated at £132,213. The purposes for which the grants or prizes were paid are shown in the following table:—

No. of Grants or Prizes.	Description of Works.	Estimated Cost of Works.	Total Grants or Prizes Paid.
5361	Erection or Improvement of Dwelling houses.	44,500	198
1392	Erection or Improvement of Out-buildings.	65,750	1169
1406	Drains and Fences Made and Repaired.	1,504	103
667	Accommodation Roads Made or Improved.	1,675	1261
897	Miscellaneous Works.	2,628	65
15383		115,057	2365

1631. The CHAIRMAN.—Are these figures up to date?—Yes. They represent up to last March.

1632. BROWNE in the memorandum handed in by Mr. Mitchell, I find the figures for these things very considerably from those you have just given us. What is the amount you say has been spent upon dwellings?—£44,500 is the estimated cost, but, of course, there are for the six years for which we give details. In the early years we did not keep all these details. The gross amount would be different.

1633. Look at those figures I have referred you to and see whether it is the same work as you deal with?—He excludes Donegal. I have included Donegal. I just give the general figures for the whole scheme to indicate the amount of work done in six years, of which details were kept.

1634. Why was Donegal excluded?—He gives separate figures, I think, about Donegal.

1635. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Even if you included Donegal, you are £400 out—I will look into that, but I think that is the explanation. I should mention in connection with that a question that was raised about the sanitary officers. It has been considered by the Board, and in their eleventh report they specially refer to the matter. They say: "The most urgent and important reform to which we wish to direct the attention of these Committees is the removal of the cattle from the dwelling-houses; and we hope to be able to announce within the next few years that this work has been completed." You will find it, on page 41 of the eleventh report. It would be useless to expect people to comply at once with the sanitary regulations if other accommodation were not provided for the cattle. It was felt by the Board that to expect the sanitary officers to put their powers in action until the out-offices were erected would be a difficult thing. Once the out-offices were erected with the sanction of the Board it was quite right to put the sanitary officers in motion, and we have, as a matter of fact, asked the Local Government Board to help us in case the local committee cannot take action effectively.

1636. Sir JOHN COLSON.—The Public Health Acts are in force in Ireland, and there is an appropriation from the rates supplemented by an appropriation from the taxes to keep salaried officers in each union to carry out the provisions of the Acts. Is not that so?—Yes; that is so.

1637. Am I putting your case correctly? These officers are receiving salaries for doing this work, which they do not do for one reason or another, and the question of these Parish Committees has awakened attention to the necessity of these matters, and thereby assisted in carrying out the provisions of the Public Health Act?—Well, there were no funds. The sanitary officer might prosecute those people, but if they had not out-offices it would be ineffective. They may be too poor to get the necessary materials, but if they get a small grant from the Board to enable them to purchase them, then it is reasonable to expect them to carry out the sanitary laws.

1638. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—The salary of the sanitary officer is rather wasted?—No; the sanitary officer can act effectively when the out-offices are put up. Then there is no excuse for keeping cattle in the houses.

1639. But so long as the Sanitary Inspector cannot ensure the performance of the duties he is supposed to perform his salary is rather wasted?—He has other duties, but there was, as I explained, a difficulty previous to the Board's scheme.

1640. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You speak of prizes and grants. Would you explain?—There are two schemes. The grant system was adopted in Mayo, and extended to all the counties except Donegal. In Donegal the prize scheme was started, and that is somewhat different, as is explained in a little pamphlet, which was issued to each Committee, encouraging the formation of these Committees, and I think the simplest way would be to read it. Posters were put up stating that prizes would be given for the carrying out of certain improvements in their households, and when the work was done, the farms were inspected, and then the prizes were given when satisfactory work was done. The prize scheme has worked successfully in Donegal. The other is a more elaborate scheme. Applications are made to the Committee, then a report is made by the Inspector, and if the Committee and the Board approve the work is carried out according to the specification.

1641. Which is the more successful?—We hope that the Mayo one will develop into the prize one eventually, but in the early stages we found that the grant system worked very well.

1642. You have both systems working at present?—Yes.

1643. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Before the Commission go to Donegal could you give us a return showing the expenditure of the Board on Parish Committees in each union and the gross salaries of sanitary officers

in each union. I suppose you will have no difficulty in giving us that?—I don't know that I could give it for the unions. Of course the sanitary officers' duties are not confined to looking after dwelling houses.

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1644. You will have no difficulty in giving us this information before we go to Donegal?—I will look into it.

Mr. O'KELLY.—Is not the sanitary officer also the relieving officer? Is not his salary as sanitary officer only usually about £5 a year.

1645. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Is not it the case that the clerk of the union and some medical officers of the union, and others beside, all receive salaries for putting in force the Public Health Acts?—I am aware of that.

1646. Mr. O'KELLY.—They only act, of course, on the sanitary officers' reports to them? They don't act until they receive a report from the sanitary officer? His salary is about £10 a year?—Yes.

1647. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are these operations confined to your own estates?—No; they extend into other estates, but some works are somewhat similar to the works carried out upon our own estates. Grants are given as an inducement to people to build houses and put up out-offices.

1648. So you are doing practically what is done in other parts of the country by the landlords and the tenants themselves?—That might be so.

1649. Have you considered that if you have to buy some of these estates ultimately you might probably have to buy back your own expenditure. Could that occur?—The expenditure on any individual farm is small.

1650. But, in any case, would you be assessed on these improvements that you make generally?—I don't think so. The Board's valuation of an estate is based on the rent of the holding. These small improvements would not affect the rent, but the Commissioner of Valuation might put up the valuation on buildings.

1651. Is there a probability of the rent being changed?—Not on this kind of improvement, which only mean a very small expenditure.

1652. So you are pretty certain that the expenditure made will ultimately be to your own benefit?—The grants are so small for improvements that it would not affect the rents to any appreciable extent.

1653. You share the expenditure with the Corporation of the locality and the people themselves?—The expenditure is borne by the Board. The grants have given a stimulus to improvements. This is the first time anything of the kind was attempted. The scheme is carried out by the local people themselves, subject to general supervision of the office and the inspectors.

1654. You have no difficulty, as a rule, in getting a local committee?—No. Occasionally a committee might not work very well, and the scheme falls through. But, as a rule, there is no difficulty, as there is a constant desire to get the grants each year. In fact, there is an increased demand for them, and we have to refuse grants now.

1655. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You give no grant unless the people give the labour?—That is the principle of the scheme. The grant is represented in work done.

1656. Your grant is very small and their labour is considerable?—Yes. The grant is often for buying materials for the out-offices—such as corrugated iron. The people want to pay cash for that, and it is a great thing for them to have the grant.

1657. All the labour is done by them?—Yes.

1658. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Does not it also discharge an educational process getting up an interest in carrying out sanitation, and is also an elementary education in villages and other places in educating people in the elements of local government?—Quite so.

1659. It is a great elementary school?—Yes; the Committee feel that they have a certain amount of authority. It is also a great advantage to the children to have better houses to grow up in.

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1660. It brings them into a direct knowledge of the difficulties of administration and of public duty?—Quite so.

1661. The CHAIRMAN.—That is all you want to say about the Parish Committees?—That is all, my lord.

1662. Then, as to loans?—The total number of loans made for agricultural purposes up to the present was 725, amounting to £13,052. The purposes for which they were made?—See-keeping appliances, twenty-eight loans, amounting to £287; purchase of live stock, 280 loans, amounting to £25,197; erection and improvement of houses and out-offices, 127 loans, amounting to £1,603; fencing loans were made to the number of 163, for £1,582. The fencing loans were principally in Donegal, where there are large tracts of grazing, and the people had to herd the cattle previously. For the erection of a creamery we made an advance of £200; and for a hand separator, £17, purchase of boats for agricultural purposes, carrying saw-wood and turf, eight loans, £56; for egg development we made one loan of £25. A loan for the purchase of spraying machines amounting to £20; fines for the purchase of tenants' interest, nine loans, amounting to £104. The total loans for agricultural banks amount to £26,555, portion of which was paid back, representing about £6,000 at present outstanding on agricultural banks.

1663. The CHAIRMAN.—Have you ever had any difficulty in getting repaid for these loans?—The only "write off" on these agricultural loans was £14. These were made at rates of interest varying from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{5}{4}$ per cent. Originally we made all loans at $\frac{3}{4}$. When we began to borrow ourselves from the Board of Works we were charged $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and we are now charging a number of these borrowers $\frac{5}{4}$ per cent.

1664. The CHAIRMAN.—And you have only lost £10 on these agricultural loans?—Yes, a "write off."

1665. A write off for a hopeless debt?—Yes; what you would call a bad debt.

1666. Have you ever had much difficulty in other cases in getting the money?—In the fishery loans we have had.

Sir JOHN COLSON.—This £13,234 is money out on loans?—That was actually raised up to date, but it is not all outstanding now.

1667. Was this cash found out of the funds of the Board or was it from the Board of Works?—Partly out of Board of Works' loans. On the home improvement scheme we are able to borrow from the Board of Works up to two-thirds of the amount lent to small landholders. It is a new scheme which has been in connection with the Board's estates.

1668. This £13,234, was it all your own money or was any portion of it money received from the Board of Works, and then passed on to the borrowers, and, if so, what was the proportion?—Part of it.

1669. Can you tell us approximately how much was Board of Works and how much your own funds? I have not the figures, but the Board of Works' loans are only applicable to certain purposes. The erection of dwelling-houses and out-offices is one of the purposes. Portion of the loans already obtained have been paid back to the Board of Works.

1670-71. What interest has the Congested Districts Board to pay to the Board of Works for the money advanced?—They are placed in the same position as any public body borrowing under the Act, and at present the rate is $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. In the early stages we got the loans at $\frac{2}{4}$ per cent.; then the interest went up to $\frac{3}{4}$.

1672. And it is $\frac{3}{4}$ now?—Yes.

1673. Are you passing on these loans borrowed at $\frac{3}{4}$ of a lower rate of interest?—No. Where we have to borrow at that rate we feel we have to charge at the same rate.

1674. The £200 for a creamery separator, was it to any society, corporate body, or association of tenants?—It was for the erection of a creamery.

1675. Who were the people who erected it?—They were one of the co-operative societies. It was made

in the early stages of our operations, and has since been paid back.

1676. Was it the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society?—It was made through them.

1677. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You say you made loans for the purchase of live stock?—Yes.

1678. What security do you get in that case? I suppose you know there is a difficulty in making advances for live stock?—The Board restricts the loans to their own tenants. Two societies are required to sign a bond with the borrower, who undertakes to repay the loan when he sells the stock. The loans are only made to tenants on the Board's own estates.

1679. Do you make loans for the purchase of the stock in the case of enlarging holdings?—Yes. We would give it in those cases. The loans are confined to two classes of land holders. One is what you would call a migrant, who gets a new holding, and the other is the man who has got a substantial enlargement of his holding, and would, therefore, require more stock.

1680. Do you give it in the case of those who have stock on their present holdings?—Not to very poor people. We found the risk would be too great until a live stock insurance scheme had been established, and although there was consideration of some scheme of the kind it was never carried out.

1681. You did not go beyond the ordinary use of interest and it lapsed; you did not subsidise it and work it?—No.

1682. With regard to loans for agricultural purposes and fencing, over what period was the redemption spread?—I think it was about seven years for fencing. There have not been very many cases of advances for fences. We have ceased to deal with fencing loans since the agricultural work was transferred to the Department.

1683. Is the term of redemption shorter in the case of the loans from the Congested Districts Board?—The Board allow from five to ten years for fencing loans. The term is varied according to the recommendation of the Inspector or according to the amount.

1684. Do you take any security that these loans are repaid?—No, we must trust to the tenants themselves for that. The Board do not make loans for fencing purposes now.

1685. For what period are the loans given for live stock?—They vary from three to five years.

1686. Do you take measures for the inspection of the cattle?—Yes.

1687. The CHAIRMAN.—We will now take loans to agricultural banks?—The Board made loans to seventy-two of these banks. The amount advanced to each was usually from £20 to £300.

1688. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is the method of organisation of these banks?—They are composed of local people who are interested directly in the district, and I have a return here which shows that the Board have made loans to the extent of £20,000, and the amount locally deposited is about the same.

1689. I suppose these banks are similar to the Continental banks in their general principles?—I think so.

1690. Are you able to say that they are all successful?—Not all of them. In a few cases the result has not given satisfaction. In those cases it was decided to recall the loan. We have had no loss. In most cases they are working well.

1691. How many years have these banks been in operation?—Since the year 1888. At present there are sixty-seven banks which have loans from the Board.

1692. Some of them are in existence since 1883?—Yes; we started them then, and the number has gradually increased.

1693. Then, you say that on the whole they have been most successful?—In some districts they have done a great amount of good.

1694. Have they failed in any particular district?—A few have done badly, but there were special reasons in each case. We have not lost anything. The capital

of \$5,000 which is set apart for this special purpose. The applications for loans are carefully examined and considered by the Board.

1705 To what purpose are these loans applied?—Chiefly for the purchase of live stock, pigs, calves, and so like, and various needs in connection with agricultural work. The Board work in connection with the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. Special shares of the Society have been allotted for the purpose of this work, and the Board pay their share of the expenses. The returns from the banks showing their operations are sent to the Board by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society and by their audit department. The auditor is fully qualified, and there is close supervision of the work.

1706 Then they are merely the distributions of your capital?—That is so.

1707 Half of the capital is yours, is it not?—Yes; that are cases in which they obtain advances from joint stock banks.

1708 Mr. BRYCE.—In connection with Mr. Sutherland's question, do I understand that the banks were started with money furnished by the Board by way of capital?—Yes; these are sixty-seven banks under the Congested Districts Board who have been assisted in this way.

1709 But all the capital is not furnished by the Congested Districts Board?—In the first place there was the Board's advance towards the capital, and in some cases a proportion of the capital was provided by local contributions. The total of the working capital is about £12,000, apart from accommodation given by joint stock banks. Of this the Board has provided by loan to the banks \$5,400, and \$5,000 is locally contributed.

1710 About fifty per cent. from the local people?—Yes; but of course the greater number are very poor. At the same time there are cases in which the local people contribute as much as \$200.

1711 Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Are the depositors all members of the bank or society?—In some cases local deposits are made by non-members.

1712 And these figures—this \$5,000—does not include advances made by joint stock banks?—No; they sometimes obtain advances from joint stock banks, but allow an overdraft, which in one case is as much as \$700.

1713 This is from the joint stock banks?—Yes; some of the joint stock banks give them a certificate or subsidiary security with a charge for interest on the outstanding balance. Some of the joint stock banks object to make these advances where the agricultural bank receives local deposits.

1714 Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—As regards the question of the relations with the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, am I right in understanding that in a congested district there may be three different agencies at work, the Congested Districts Board, the Agricultural and Technical Department, and then the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. These industries and banks may be supervised in some districts by all three, and all doing the same work?—That is so.

1715 Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I think the Congested Districts Board subsidises no bank created by the Agricultural Department. Is it not a fact that the Congested Districts Board employs the officers of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society for the purpose of avoiding overlapping in the work of supervision and organisation of the banks created by the Board?—Yes, that is so.

1716 So that they do not contribute to any bank created by the Department?—There may have been a few cases in a partly non-congested district, but if there was anything of the kind the work would be placed under joint direction. Such cases would be very rare.

1717 Mr. BRYCE.—Were most of these banks scattered over Ireland?—I can give the particulars if you wish, or can hand in a copy of this schedule.

1718 Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—What is that you are reading from? Is it the Fifteenth Report?—It is a schedule I have had prepared giving a list of the banks.

Mr. BRYCE.—That is to be attached as an Appendix to the Fifteenth Report.

1719 The CHAIRMAN.—Does the Fifteenth Report contain them?—Yes.

1720 Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is the rate of interest charged to borrowers?—We do not lay down any rule, but five per cent. is the usual rate charged by banks. The rate varies. I have not got details of that.

1721 Do you charge interest to those banks on the advances you make?—We only charge them $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

1722 They have the balance?—Yes.

1723 Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Does that pamphlet give details of the work of any particular bank?—Yes. I have here a return of the loans obtained, the amount of the revenue, overdrafts, the local deposits, total loans issued, and the repayment of loans and interest during the year.

1724 Are the balance-sheets and all other transactions submitted to the Board?—They are first sent to the Irish Agricultural Society, checked by their officials, and sent on to the Board every year.

1725 They are all brought under review, and specially examined and duly audited?—Yes, by a duly qualified auditor.

1726 Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You have no ordinary banks?—These agricultural banks are in places where ordinary joint-stock banks are not convenient, or where you will find a class of people who would not get the ordinary accommodation.

1727 The capital is not co-operative, it is not held jointly?—Every member is jointly liable with the other members. There is a joint and several liability upon each member.

1728 Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—They cannot make advances to anyone who is not a member of their body?—No.

That is the only way in which they resemble the Raebanien system.

1729 Mr. KAVANAGH.—Can you give us any idea of the rate of interest to borrowers?—About five per cent.

1730 There is not a limit?—You may take it at 5 per cent. on the average, and 10 per cent. as the outside limit.

1731 The CHAIRMAN.—As regards fishery loans?—I have here a report on loans for fishery purposes. We have two systems—one the "share" system and the other a system of loans. Under the share system the crews work the boats, the earnings of which are divided into nine shares. A certain proportion of the shares belong to the crew, and a certain proportion to the Board.

1732 The CHAIRMAN.—I don't want to interrupt, but shall we not get this information from Mr. Green?—This is a financial statement showing the results of the advances made by the Board for fishery purposes under the "share" system and "loan" system respectively. The statement is as follows:—

LARGE FISHING BOATS SUPPLIED TO FISHERMEN ON THE "SHARE" SYSTEM.

On Donegal.

Two boats of the Scotch "Zulu" type were sent to Teelin in the Autumn of 1895 and given to local crews on the "Donegal share" system. The crew of each boat consisted of six men, who were under the charge of Scotch instructors.

The boats' earnings, which were paid through the Board's manager at Teelin, were divided into nine shares, of which the Board got three and the crew six. At first the three shares retained by the Board were placed to the credit of the cost of the boat and gear, which eventually became the property of the crew, but after the first year one of the three shares was credited to the cost of instruction.

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The result of this experiment was so encouraging that additional boats, of that same type, were purchased and given to local crews on similar terms. Later on it was considered desirable to retain four-ninths out of the earnings, three-ninths going to credit of sinking fund instead of two-ninths as previously, and five-ninths going to the crew at their share. This is the arrangement now in force, interest at three per cent. being charged on the outstanding balances.

A deduction of 2½ per cent. on the boats' earnings is also made and credited to cost of management.

The total number of boats supplied to County Donegal fishermen up to the present under the "Share" system is seventy-three, which were worked by 100 different crews—the policy being to encourage the more experienced crews to take new boats (Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell—Desk boats!—Yes)—in exchange for the old ones, which are transferred at a valuation to the new and inexperienced crews. The latter can in turn look forward to getting better boats.

The total cost of the seventy-three boats, including fishing gear and cost of upkeep, was £27,500. The total earnings, including this summer's fishing, amounted to £28,846, the amount paid to the crews was £29,700, the amount placed to credit of Sinking Fund £17,180, to instruction £5,385, and to management £735.

Six of the boats have become the property of the crews—four of the boats were wrecked—the loss to the Board being £285. There was only a small sum outstanding at the time.

Sixty-three boats are still in the Board's hands, the outstanding balances amounting to £2,660 after allowing for the value of the boats sold to new crews.

The value of the boats and nets, which are kept in good order and condition, and are insured, is considerably more than the balances still payable. The following are the results of the two last seasons' fishing, viz.:—The summer fishing of 1905 and the autumn and winter fishing of 1905-6.

SUMMER HERRING FISHING AT DOWNINGS BAY AND TERRIN, COUNTY DONEGAL.

Season, 1906.

Fifty-five of the Board's boats took part in the fishing. The total earnings for the six weeks during which the fishing lasted amounted to £4,650, or £24 10s. per boat. The amount paid to the crews as their share was £2,663, being an average of £48 to each crew of six men.

This works out £8 per man, being at the rate of £1 6s. 8d. per week to each member of the crew for the season.

In addition to the above sum of £2,663, paid to the crews, a sum of £1,037 was credited out of the boats' earnings to the sinking fund.

Twenty-nine of the fifty-five boats fished without instructors. The cost of the instructors attached to the remaining twenty-six boats was about £160, after allowing for the deduction out of the boats' earnings for credit of the Instruction Account.

If the earnings of each boat are taken instead of the average for the entire fleet the following are some of the results, viz.:—

One boat earned as much as £302—the amount paid to the crew being £163, which was equal to £27 to each man, or £24 10s. per week for the season of six weeks.

Of the other boats one earned £251, eight earned over £130 each, and nine earned between £100 and £130 each.

On the other hand some of the boats had very poor earnings, eight of them earning less than £15 each.

AUTUMN AND WINTER HERRING FISHING AT DOWNINGS BAY AND KERRACLAGH, COUNTY DONEGAL.

Season, 1905-6.

Fifty-eight of the share boats took part in the fishing. The total earnings amounted to £10,303, equal to an average of £410 per boat. The amount paid to the crews as their share was £3,110, equal to £128 per crew. This represents an earning of £17 12s. for each member of the crew, being at the rate of £1 7s. per week for the season of thirteen weeks.

The total sum credited to sinking fund was £3,350, to instruction £310, and to management £230.

Eleven boats fished without instructors. The cost of the instructors attached to the remaining forty-seven boats was about £600 after deducting the amount credited out of earnings to the Instruction Account.

The earnings of the several boats varied from £73 in one case to £4 in another; two other boats earned over £600 each; two between £300 and £400 each, twenty between £200 and £300 each, and fourteen between £100 and £200 each; the remaining boats earnings being less than £100 each.

II.—COUNTIES GALWAY AND MAYO.

Twenty-five fishing boats of the "Nabha" type have been supplied to fishermen in Counties Galway and Mayo during the past eight years on the "Galway and Mayo Share" system, and in addition three boats of the same class were sent to the districts to be used as "Instruction" boats, crews being taken on each season. Some of the share boats were also leased as instruction boats.

The total cost of the twenty-eight boats was £11,000—the total earnings amounted to £10,100; the payments made to the crews out of earnings as their share amounted to £4,864, in addition to which advance for "grab money" had to be made, which amounted to £2,355. The method of dividing the earnings in Counties differs from that in force in Donegal, it being the custom in the former district to make an advance of £1 a week for "grab" to each member of the crew. In a bad season, when the earnings were insufficient, the loss fell on the Board.

The results of the "share" system on the line it was worked in connection with large boats in Counties were so unsatisfactory that the Board decided to sell the boats under the loan system.

Twenty of the share boats and one instruction boat have been accordingly sold at prices which amount to £1,046 less than the amount outstanding on the share accounts. This deficiency is being written off against instruction in fishing.

Five of the share boats remain on hands, the outstanding balances amounting to £1,561, and two are still worked as instruction boats.

III.—YAWLS SUPPLIED TO FISHERMEN IN COUNTIES GALWAY AND MAYO ON THE "DONEGAL SHARE SYSTEM."

The Board supplied twenty-one yaws to crews in Counties Galway and Mayo to be worked on the share system within the past six years. The boats, fully equipped for fishing, cost £1,107. The crews earned £2,093, of which sum they received £1,380 as their share, and the Board retained £154 for material and services supplied. The balance of £541 has been applied in reduction of amounts due by the crews for their yaws and gear, leaving a balance of £437 still outstanding.

Two yaws were wrecked, and the loss to the Board on this account was £53; while a further loss of £69 was incurred when four crews were dismissed and their yaws sold on the loan system.

1723. THE CHAIRMAN.—There is only one point in this connection that I want to ask you about. You said you had some difficulty, with regard to the fisheries, in getting the money back on loan!—Yes; in some cases on the Commission's coast, where the fishings have been rather poor of late, considerable arrears have accumulated, and the total amount written off has been

£2,553 on large loans and £224 on small loans. Since June, 1893, the date upon which the Board took over from the Commissioners of Works the administration of the Fishery Loan Funds, 4,101 loans, amounting to £28,964, were made for the purchase of boats and fishing gear. These loans were made at 2½ per cent. interest—the time allowed for re-payment varying according to the amount of the loan from two years to eight years the principal and interest being repayable by half-yearly instalments. Of the total sum advanced, £16,728 was for the purchase of 176 boats, costing over £100 each—the loans in some cases amounting to over £200—and £26,275 was for smaller boats and gear. The number of loan accounts at present open is 1,875, including 69 large boat men. The total sum written off is £2,377, and the arrears amount to £5,053. These last debts and arrears relate almost entirely to the large boats' accounts.*

1724. Just repeat these figures again?—Out of the total sum advanced of £28,964 we have written off £2,377, and the arrears now amount to £5,053. The bad debts and arrears relate almost entirely to the large boats' accounts, the small loans being very well repaid, as will appear from the following summary, viz:—

Large Loans.—

Amount of loans issued	£26,728
Amount written off	2,373
Amount of arrears	4,701

Small Loans.—

Amount of loans issued	£26,275
Amount written off	214
Amount of arrears	352

A further analysis of the large loans accounts shows that the bad debts and arrears are principally in respect of the County Galway loans—the Carris and Aran districts accounting for £5,376 of the total.

1725. From the Carris and Aran districts alone do you say?—Yes; that is where we have a number of the larger boats, and where the seasons have of late years been very poor.

1726. Do you know the proportion as between Aran and the mainland?—Yes; Carris is over £2,000, and Aran is £1,500 in round figures.

1727. Mr. BRYCE.—Does Carris include Gortanah?—It is a very poor district, where we bought some estates, and where the holdings are so small that it was decided to try and develop the fishing industry with large boats.

1728. What is the size of those boats?—Some of them run to £500. The tonnage varies. A typical one, if you would like to see it, is where a train of mackerel nets and the purchase of a boat, with addition of gear from time to time, would bring the amount of the loan up to £500—that is for what is called a thirty-six-foot "nobby." It is found that this is too big a capital for these poor people where the fishing is not steady, and where, when a bad season comes, they have no other resource, and the fishing will not enable them to meet the instalments.

1729. The CHAIRMAN.—Is this a typical case of a Carris boat?—No, of an Aran boat. We may have a good expert of the man, but unless he had some other resource he could not meet the instalments payable on £500. It follows that loans must be reduced for that class of fishing, and possibly some more supervision and educational work done.

1730. I thought Aran fishing was very successful?—It used to be, but for some years, for one reason or another the fishing has been very poor. The last season shows a poor return.

1731. Mr. BRYCE.—You mean the spring fishing of this year?—Yes.

1732. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is that owing to want of fish?—Yes, the fish came in late, or the stormy weather prevented fishing, and prices dropped so that the total earnings of twenty-six large boats was only £1,305 for the last spring, being an average of £50 for each boat for a season of ten weeks.

1733. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Did the prices drop?—At the season advanced for the spring mackerel, the

prices dropped very considerably. Unless the fishing begins early in the spring, you will not get the big price from the English market.

1734. The CHAIRMAN.—Have the returns from Aran been decreasing year by year?—Yes. Last year they had good fishing at Cleggan, but Aran was very poor.

1735. For how long has this decrease in the Aran fishing been perceptible?—I would not like to mention a year, but the last two or three seasons have been very discouraging.

1736. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Was there not a local cause in connection with the poor returns?—There was some difficulty in getting a merchant to go there, but I could not say to what extent that affected the earnings.

1737. Sir JOHN COTTELL.—When you speak about the weather being bad at the time, do you mean to say that the fishing fails when the weather is bad, although the fish come into the immediate vicinity?—Sometimes, when it is stormy the boats cannot go out. At the end of April one week will make a great difference in the English market. If you are able to run your fish quickly—

1738. Yes, but these boats that cost £500, surely these do not limit their operations to the vicinity of the port they belong to?—They do.

1739. But they do not follow the fish?—No. They fish from a particular port near home.

1740. When you speak of a poor season, you mean a poor season in that particular neighbourhood?—Yes.

1741. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Fishings are always variable in every place?—Yes, particularly on the Connemara coast. The herring fishing has been very satisfactory on the other hand on the Donegal side. The fishing has been very good there.

1742. You must always take into account in judging fishing the variability of the markets?—Yes, but these poor people have no capital to tide over a bad year, and get into arrears which they cannot pay off. That is the great difficulty. And if they have not capital to keep their boats and gear in good order, the boats deteriorate, and may not be value for the loan outstanding.

1743. That is not peculiar to Ireland?—No; I think you have had some experience of it in Scotland. I may say that the loan is very small on the small boats. Of course when a weak season it alters matters very much.

1744. You do not insure them?—The Board have started an insurance scheme recently, but it is a voluntary scheme, except in respect of boats the loans for which have been made after a certain date. Many boats have not come in yet. The premium is three per cent.

1745. Mr. BRYCE.—I understand that in Scotland they are smaller?—Our fishing superintendent, Mr. Duhon, says the fishermen insure at less than 3 per cent. there, and have satisfactory results.

1746. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You advance loans for fishing gear?—We do.

1747. Have you not found that particularly risky, —Yes, in some cases; but if we did not do it, the boats could not fish, when the people have not capital to supply gear themselves. The fishermen in some of these districts are practically destitute of means, and it is only out of their boats that they can pay their instalments. The boats are the main security to the Board, and if the fishing fails the loan often falls on the Board, because the streets may be small landowners who would not be good for the amount if used for the debt unless their holdings were sold out.

1748. That would be the reason why most of the failures to meet the instalments were on the part of those who had large loans?—Yes. I am afraid a loan of £500 is out of proportion to the average earnings of that particular district.

* See p. 361.

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1748. Yes, unless you make the borrower supply a portion of the tackle himself.—He has to get an extra loan for any gear which he cannot supply himself. Therefore, you have to nurse the loan on for a series of years, and if there is a series of bad years the difficulty is very great.

1749. The difficulty in that case is how they manage to accumulate capital at all?—None of them can. In some cases shopkeepers started boats, and were able to provide capital. Of course if a man like a shopkeeper has capital, he can keep the boat working. He has resources out of which he can meet a bad year.

1750. These two facts—the casual nature of fishing, and the poverty of the people, which renders it impossible for them to accumulate capital—these are two facts that have to be kept in mind in starting the people down there permanently as fishermen?—Quite so.

1751. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you think you could give us a return of the amount of arrears and bad debts with regard to fishery loans, showing the different parts of Ireland in which they arise?—Yes certainly, as regards the congested districts.

1752. Would it show the amount of small loans in each district?—Yes, the total amount of loans made in each district, and I can separate the large loans from the small ones.

1753. What I want to see is whether there are certain portions of the coast where it is more difficult than in others to stimulate and develop the fishing?—Quite so; I will do that.

1754. The CHAIRMAN.—I think we have now got to the question of loans for industrial works. Will you tell us about that?—Yes. The total number of loans for industrial purposes made by the Board was 716, amounting to £23,351. In 1892 the Board made a loan of £7,000 for the enlargement, extension, and completion of the buildings, and the siting up of the Industrial School at Fuxford, County Mayo, founded for developing the weaving industry. At the same time they made a loan of £3,000 to the Ballaghaderreen Industrial School, County Mayo, for the development of the knitting and shirt-making industries. The loans were made at 2½ per cent interest to be repaid by fixed half-yearly instalments spread over eighteen years. In the case of Ballaghaderreen School the time for repayment was afterwards extended to twenty-eight years. The Board were amply secured by a deed of mortgage on lands and premises in County Dublin. The half-yearly instalments have been regularly paid and the instalments now outstanding on both loans amount to £3,857.

1755. Mr. BAKER.—How much is the amount outstanding in Fuxford?—In Fuxford there is £2,385 outstanding. In the other case it is £1,774.

1756. Out of a total of what?—£7,000 was the amount of the original loan in the case of Fuxford. The outstanding amount means instalments of principal and interest. I have not calculated the redemption value. The total debt is less. The purposes for which the other loans were made are as follows:—£3 for weaving loans, amounting to 2665; 855 for knitting machines and spinning wheels, amounting to 2694; 198 for carpenter's tools, amounting to £193; 150 for barrel-making materials supplied to Cork and Kerry coopers, amounting to 26,352; 23 miscellaneous purposes, amounting to £3,121. The rate of interest charged on these loans varied from 2½ per cent. to 3½ per cent. The present rate is 3½ per cent. The total amount written off on Industrial Loans was £153.

1757. Sir JOHN CORMACK.—In making small loans to bodies voluntarily associated, what is the nature of the security in those cases?—In small loans we get two sureties. The borrower gets two neighbours to go security. We make inquiry, and if we find they would be security, we issue the loan.

1758. I want to give you a typical case, and I want to ask you a question about it. It is mentioned in the Third Report, I think, where at a place called Killybeggen, Co. Leitrim, it is stated that in order to establish a manufactory for straw bottle-envelopes, the Board advanced a sum of £200 on the joint and several note

of head of the members of the Committee. And they it goes on:—"Unfortunately wheaten straw is not grown in the locality, so that the ultimate success of the venture is doubtful." Did it succeed?—No, we lost money over it.

1759. That is the point I want to get at. There was £200 given on a note of hand to establish a straw industry in a district where there was no straw, according to this report. When it turned out to be a failure, what was the ultimate net result in fact? You had the security of a note of hand for it?—Yes.

1760. Tell me what was the outstanding balance when the thing was wound up. What was actually lost. I am quoting from page 19 of the Fourth Report of the Congested Districts Board. Now, would you just tell me that?—It was a loan of £200, and we had to write off eventually £94 12s.

1761. That was your net loss?—Yes.

1762. The rest was realised on the security?—Yes.

1763. And those who had secured had to be let off?—Yes, we had a lot of trouble about it. It was up several times before the Board. We succeeded to help on the industry, but it was hopeless, and we compromised at about £94.

1764. The CHAIRMAN.—Now, you want to say something about the need for additional funds?—Yes. In connection with the claims of the Congested Districts Board for additional funds, it appears to me that the following points have an important bearing upon the question and deserve consideration. It should be borne in mind that the Congested Districts Board was created to deal with exceptional conditions prevailing in certain poor districts in Ireland, and the necessity for the formation of the Board, and the justification for endowing it with public funds for the purposes mentioned in the Act, was the great poverty and backwardness of the whole area—as compared with the rest of the country. Any funds therefore given to the Board should be in addition to those applicable to Ireland generally. Legislation has, however, tended towards excluding the congested districts from participation in funds which were originally applicable to the whole of Ireland, and thus apparently is being done on the ground that those districts are adequately provided for by the funds placed at the disposal of the Board.

1765. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say that legislation has excluded the congested districts?—Yes. I will mention the cases. An examination of the Board's accounts will show that the main portion of their present fixed income is derived from Irish as distinct from Imperial funds, viz.—Interest on Irish Church Surplus Grant, £61,286; Endowed Development Grants, £20,000; total Irish Funds, £81,286; Parliamentary Vote, £25,000. It will thus be seen that the Special Parliamentary Grant in aid of the purposes of the Congested Districts Board only amounts to £25,000 a year. As regards advances made to the Board under the Purchase Act for the purchase of Estates, the British taxpayer is amply secured by Irish Funds, and the entire loss of floating the necessary stock—which amounts to a considerable sum—is charged to Irish and not Imperial funds, and the bonus payable to vendors is provided for out of savings on cost of administration in Ireland. The following are instances where I consider that congested districts have not been fairly treated as regards the distribution of public moneys even when the expenditure under the Light Railways and Marine Works Acts is taken into account:—(a). The Arrears of Rent Act, 1838 (Section 26), and the Tramways and Public Companies Act, 1863 (Section 12), provided for grants being made by the Board of Works to the amount of £205,000 for the purpose of assisting emigration and migration from certain scheduled Poor Law Unions in the West. Of this sum it was provided that not more than £50,000 might be applied for the purpose of migration. These provisions were repealed by Section 35 (4) of the Act constituting the Board, and the duty of providing funds for these purposes was transferred from the Board of Works to the Congested Districts Board, who were required to provide the necessary funds out of their income arising from the Church Surplus Grant. As this relieved the Parliamentary Vote, an Equivalent Grant should have been

grants to the Board. (5). Under the provisions of Section 5 of the Purchase of Land Act, 1891, a Reserve Fund of £200,000 was created in connection with the cash portion of the Guarantee Fund by contributions from the Enfranchisement. This sum, which at the passing of the Land Act, 1933, had accumulated to about £250,000, was placed at the disposal of the Estate Commissioners by Section 43 of that Act for the purposes of Estate Improvements, but inasmuch as the fund was previously applicable to the whole of Ireland, the estates purchased by the Board were equally entitled to a share. This Reserve Fund was built up on what is known as the Enfranchisement Contribution of £40,000 a year, which became payable to Ireland on the passing of the Land Act, 1891, and forms part of the cash portion of the Guarantee Fund. Under Section 5 of the Act creating the Fund, the residue of the Enfranchisement Contribution is to be paid each year to the Poor Law Unions towards the cost of pauper's cottages. In many of the Unions containing congested districts, as shown in the Return which has been prepared, the Labourers Acts have been practically inoperative, and the Enfranchisement Contributions have consequently been withheld. Under the provisions of the Labourers Act of last Session, any annual balances of these Grants are to be transferred to those Unions which had previously put the Labourers Acts into operation. This means a considerable loss to some of the Unions containing congested districts. According to a recent Parliamentary letter relating to Labourers' Cottages (No. 194), the amount owing to the credit of County Mayo on 31st March last was £5,553, County Galway £5,131, and Sligo £2,833.

176 Mr O'KELLY.—Before you pass from that, may I give you any idea why it was that the County Mayo could not take advantage of this grant of £5,000?—County Mayo is one of the counties which did not take advantage of it in the west, and it may be accounted for by the fact that the ratepayers could not see their way to make a fresh charge in the rates to provide cottages.

175 In fact it would be taxing the very poor to build houses for the very poor?—That is my contention.

178 That is all I want to ask you. You may proceed with your statement?—(a). Under Section 3 of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, 1899, the Department has an annual income of £26,000, derived from the following sources:—Local taxation (Customs and Excise) (Ireland) (hitherto paid to the Board of National Education), £78,000; Irish Church Surplus Fund, £70,000, equivalent of shares of Irish Judgeships absorbed under Judicature Act, 1897, £12,000; equivalent of expenses of Customs and Messuar Institutions (hitherto paid through Board of National Education), £5,000; total, £165,000. In addition to these annual sums the Department received in the first financial year capital sums of £18,800 and £166,886, the former representing the accumulations previous to 1st April, 1900, of the savings in respect of Irish Judgeships abolished, and the latter being a payment on account of a capital sum payable to the Department from the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account (Estate Duty) under Sub-section (G) of Section 15 of the Act. Under Section 15 of the Act no part of these funds could be applied for the benefit of the "congested districts," but inasmuch as these funds were, previous to the passing of the Act, applicable to the whole of Ireland the congested districts would appear in equity to have been entitled to participate in them. In addition to the moneys placed at the disposal of the Department, and of which the congested districts were precluded from obtaining a share until 1902, there was an annual sum of £5,000 paid out of the Local Taxation Account (Estate Duty) to the Royal Dublin Society to be applied to the improvement of horses and cattle in Ireland, but the congested districts were deprived of any share of this grant on the grounds that the Congested Districts Board had funds at their disposal for the same purpose. This annual sum was subsequently transferred to the Department. The provisions of the Act of 1899, prohibiting the Department from spending their funds in the congested districts, was

repealed by the Land Act of 1903, but the Department claims that they should be given additional funds for expenditure in the congested districts, as their present income was intended for the benefit of the districts outside the scheduled area, and is insufficient for both. In connection with the question about giving special grants of Imperial funds for the purpose of relieving poorer districts I would call attention to a matter which occurred in connection with the inquiry into the local taxation of Scotland. It appears that* under the Probate Duties (Scotland) Act of 1888 a sum of £30,000 was allotted as an annual grant in relief of local taxation in the Highlands and islands—the congested districts of Scotland. The grant was voted at the same rate the following year, but an objection was raised in Parliament to its continuance on the ground that any exceptional relief to the Highland counties should properly constitute an Imperial charge, and should not be met out of the moneys assigned for the benefit of Scotland generally. That bears out the point I would like to make—that where an exceptional grant is necessary it should be in addition to the grant already allotted to the country generally.

1769 Mr SUTHERLAND.—Was that granted in the case of Scotland?—They continue it at present at the rate of £10,000, but it was reduced from £30,000, which was the original grant.

1770 That is the way the money is paid now to the Congested Districts Board?—The grant I refer to was reduced to £10,000 on account of the objection in Parliament.

1771 Do you think that applies to your case?—Acting on that principle I say that from any funds applicable to Ireland generally the congested districts ought to benefit fully, and should, in addition, get special funds from Parliament.

1772 I don't think that was the argument at all. I think the argument was that the Scottish members said exactly what you are saying now, but they did not get what they wanted. My recollection is that there was no question raised in Scotland as to parts of Scotland against each other. It was only an objection that the Scottish Congested Districts Board were going to be paid a certain amount out of money already allocated to Scotland, but they did not get their way. I may be wrong, but I think that is the decision.

1773 Sir JOHN CONNOR.—In that Memorandum you have read there are two matters dealt with, or incidentally dealt with. One is money appropriated in the early eighties by certain Acts—a sum of £200,000, and of that £180,000 was for the emigration of whole families.—For the purposes of emigration.

1774 The other sum of £80,000 was placed at disposal for the purposes of migration?—Yes.

1775 I want to know this—is it not a fact that the whole of the £180,000 was spent on emigration of whole families at their own request, and that not a penny of the £80,000 for migration was spent?—I don't know how much of the £180,000 was spent on emigration.

1776 The whole of the grant was spent on emigration—it is in the Government return. That should have gone to the general purposes of the district?—Yes, but my point is that these grants were provided out of moneys voted by Parliament, but the Act of 1887 made them chargeable in future to Board's income.

1777 The only other point is this—you went into some figures with regard to the Labourers Act. Well now, you mentioned in passing, that in many unions in congested districts the Act had not been worked at all.—That is so.

1778 But that in certain Unions out of the congested districts area it has been worked?—That is so—down in Cork and Kerry there are considerable operations.

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O'Brien.

1779. Therefore in those Unions where it has been worked a number of small holdings have been added to the Unions by the creation—by the putting up of labourers' cottages?—That is so.

1779a. And these are uneconomic holdings in the sense that nobody could live upon them?—Yes—from that point of view they would be.

1780. Therefore the only hope of their being of value is where there is a demand for labour?—Yes.

1781. And these cottages are subsidiary to the demand for labour?—Quite so.

1782. Then the case is this, that the Congested Districts Board, on the one hand, by its beneficent efforts, and with the public money, is doing its best to abolish the uneconomic holdings and to reduce the number of uneconomic holdings, while the operation of the Labourers Act with public money is increasing them?—Labourers' plots are scarcely holdings. They are given where labourers have to be supplied with better houses. It is admitted they could not possibly live on them.

1783. I am not arguing against labourers' cottages, because it is a beneficent work. I am merely putting this to you—whether it is not the case that the Congested Districts Board in operating to reduce the number of uneconomic holdings, while another body is spending public money to build labourers' cottages which are uneconomic unless there is a demand for the labourers who would occupy them?—I don't think they are uneconomic. They are substitutes for old cottages which are in an insanitary condition. The Labourers Act is to provide accommodation for labourers and induce them to remain in the district for the benefit of the community at large. Sometimes there may be an increase in the number of cottages, but it does not always follow there is an increase because new houses are erected. I have prepared a Return showing the operations that have taken place in each Union, and the rates rated. It shows the Unions in which the Labourers Act has operated.*

1794. In those districts where there is congestion and uneconomic holdings, there is no great demand for labour or they would know themselves it would be better to be labourers than agricultural tenants?—Possibly.

1785. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is it not a fact that a labourer's cottage is only built for an existing labourer?—Quite so.

1786. It does not increase the number of uneconomic holdings?—Not as a general rule.

1787. Mr. O'KELLY.—Have many cottages been put up in those parts of the county where you have uneconomic holdings?—No. Except in Cork and Kerry the Labourers Act has been practically inoperative. There is a Parliamentary Return which gives the number in every rural district.

1788. Have any labourers' cottages been put up in West Cork?—There is no way of showing to what extent in the congested areas. You see some of the Unions in Cork are partly congested and partly non-congested, and there is no information in the Return as to whether the cottages are in congested or non-congested portions of the Union. A considerable number of cottages have been erected in Cork and Kerry.

1789. Of course there is a great deal in what Sir John Lubbock suggested, that it would be a hardship to erect cottages for the poor at the expense of the poor?—In some places a rate of a shilling has been struck for cottages. There have been very large schemes in Limerick and Cork.

1790. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is it only the very poor who are assisted for these?—It is a Union at large charge.

1791. The rich would pay a much larger proportion?—Yes.

1792. The CHAIRMAN.—Have we a copy of the Return you were quoting from just now about labourers' cottages?—Not of this one, my lord, but I can lend it to you. It gives the amount of each Union—first a congested and non-congested respectively, and it gives the rateable valuation per head of the population, the last poor rate struck in each rural district, the number of cottages built in each of the districts, and the poundage rate struck for the purpose of providing these cottages. I will hand in a copy to the Secretary.*

1793. Have you anything else to say?—No, except as to the claims of the congested districts for special treatment. The backwardness of the district from every point of view should be taken into account in measuring the amount of help people require. Under the head of education, I see from the last Census Report that there is a considerable amount of illiteracy. In the County Donegal the percentage is still shown at 36 per cent.; in the County Galway, 28·4 per cent.; in County Mayo, 25·1 per cent.; as compared with the average of 13·7 for Ireland and 11 for Dublin, which, I think, shows that for some time to come the congested districts require very special treatment to bring them up to the level of the rest of Ireland. Then, as regards local taxation, the high rates would appear—

1794 This has got nothing to do with the Congested Districts Board?—I wish to indicate to particular Unions where the poor rates are high compared with other parts of Ireland.

1795. As an illustration of one of the reasons for keeping them poor?—No, but to show that where they are very poor they have very high rates.

1796. Mr. O'KELLY.—Is that caused by the low valuations?—Well, in some of these poor Unions the poor rates are very heavy, and the valuations per head is low.

1797. Would you like to have a general adjustment of the grants given in aid of local taxation?—I think it would give great assistance.

1798. I have postponed a question—I put a question to Mr. Mitchell yesterday, but I postponed it until you came before the Commission. The Department of Agriculture contributed the sum of £25,000—didn't they—towards the seed potatoes?—I believe so.

1799. Am I right in saying that in the past the interest on loans received was defrayed by means of a free grant?—I could not say definitely, but I think in some cases the Government have given interest free.

1800. Do you know from what source that money was derived?—From the Endowments Fund, I have no doubt. I find that they have made this grant towards the cost of providing seed potatoes at less than market price, and they distributed it over certain Poor Law Unions, some of which are congested and some not congested.

1801. Do you know from what source the interest was paid in the past?—No, I could not tell you that.

1802. That is a question I told Mr. Mitchell I would put you?—I could have made inquiries, but it does not come within our province. I would have to find out.

1803. I would not refer to it only Mr. Mitchell alluded to it in one of the Reports he read for me. Well, the message I got was that you would like to know the source from which this £25,000 was reduced to the Department's Report, and I find it comes out of ordinary endowment. I am sorry I cannot give information on the other point.

1804. I must seek for information elsewhere. I suppose you were present when I put the same question to Mr. Mitchell yesterday?—Yes.

1805. You have £1,300,000 worth of property in your hands now?—Yes, that is about the amount.

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Mr. J. R.
O'Brien.

1205 When do you expect you will be able to get rid of this?—I have not made an estimate as to the time it will take if the funds asked for are not provided.

1206 Are you satisfied with the present definition of congestion?—No, I think it—

1207 Have you any suggestions to make as to a change?—If the Commission declare generally what work should be made available for the purpose of clearing congestion, the Board dealing with the order might have power to schedule from time to time. At present the Board have power to purchase outside a congested district, and then apply to the Lord Lieutenant for an Order in Council. Therefore, I think, leaving the power to the Board to decide is a matter of less importance.

1208 You would give discretionary powers to the Board?—Yes, as was done in Scotland. Elsewhere this kind is very useful in defining the areas.

1209 You are in favour of giving a discretionary power to the Board—in there any serious objection that could be taken to it?—Well, no. It has been said that pressure would be put on the Board to schedule a district for the purpose of getting the bulk of the funds, but the Board's means would be limited, and they would be very careful about scheduling.

1210 Even if you got all the money you have been asking for, it would take you half-a-century to get rid of congestion?—It would take a considerable time.

1211 Mr. KAVANAGH.—You would do away with the congested districts altogether?—I would give a sanction to the Board as to scheduling districts.

1212 You would give power to the Board to schedule any place?—By electoral divisions.

1213 Then you would have to do away with the definition "congested" altogether?—I think so. I don't think it is desirable to maintain it. There was a definition of poor districts given in the Cowper Commission Report which took in any area that contained what they considered evidence of poverty and requiring special treatment.

1214 Mr. O'KELLY.—What Report is that?—The Cowper Commission Report.

1215 Is there a definition of congestion?—Yes.

1216 Is the word "congestion" used?—Yes. They use the definition of congestion is so and so.

1217 The CHAIRMAN.—Their idea of a congested district is what I would have to refer to the Report, my lord.

1218 Mr. O'KELLY.—I am anxious to find out whether the word "congestion" appears in the Cowper Report?—I have the Report here. This is

what the Commissioners say as to a "congested district":—"We understand such a district as one where the land is of inferior quality, not good enough for pasturage, and not naturally adapted for profitable agriculture, occupied by a large number of poor people holding at small rents, and where each separate holding is not of itself capable of supporting the holder and a family."

1219 Mr. KAVANAGH.—You would hardly call that a definition—it is a description?—Yes; you may find these very poor places in an electoral division, which would not come under the definition in the Act of 1891.

1220 You could not call it a definition?—Possibly not.

1221 Sir JOHN CONNOLLY.—You think the Board ought to have power to schedule places now lying outside the area?—Yes.

1222 Assuming that money is not unlimited, are you also in favour of the corresponding power of the Board of relieving itself of some of its area by having power to resign areas now scheduled?—Yes. I think if they found an area might be relieved from further assistance, they might sell it. But that is not of much importance, because whether they leave it on the schedule or not they need not spend money on it.

1223 Did you hear me ask a question about the Dillon estate?—Do you think the Board ought to have power to discharge the Dillon estate from the schedule?—No. I think a number of holdings on the Dillon estate require help still—the improvement of the houses will be of importance for some years to come—and they ought to get special treatment in agricultural development. I spoke of special districts where it might not be possible for the Board to do anything.

1224 From your point of view the Dillon estate will for some time to come throw on the Congested Districts Board some financial liability, and some responsibility?—Certainly. At least I have always contemplated most of these poor estates being helped for some years after they had been disposed of under the Purchase Act.

1225 Does your time go so far as a new generation until these better conditions have arisen?—If necessary.

1226 Mr. O'KELLY.—Is it not a fact that you have now on the Dillon estate—notwithstanding your own idea of congestion—139 holdings that are uneconomical?—There are a considerable number.

1227 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you mean not greater than £8 valuation?

Mr. O'KELLY.—Below £8. Any holding at or under £8 I consider uneconomical.

Mr. HENRY DEAN examined.

1228 The CHAIRMAN.—You are the Chief Land Inspector of the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

1229 Are you personally acquainted with the present financial position of the Board so far as purchase of estates is concerned?—Yes.

1230 Before you go into your evidence, will you tell the Commission exactly what the present financial position is with regard to the estates that you have in hand, and the estates that you have undertaken to purchase. We have been told by Mr. Mitchell and Mr. O'Brien that unless some means are found of raising money, or enabling the Board to increase its income, there will next March be insufficient money to deal with the estates that you have already at hand. Will you explain exactly how that stands?—Perhaps it would be more convenient if I put up to it shortly.

1231 If you wish, but I should like personally to understand the position before you go into the de-

tails?—The Board have purchased up to the present 152 estates—

1232 Have you got the financial details?—No, but I can give you the prices.

1233 We have heard that the Board's financial undertakings amount to £1,200,000, and negotiations have been started as regards £500,000 more?—I did not bring any figures in connection with the finances of the Board. I understood Mr. O'Brien would give you those.

1234 The CHAIRMAN.—Then will you go on as you originally intended?—Yes.

1235 Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.—I will ask you a few questions with the object of bringing out what the problem is so far as land is concerned, with which the Congested Districts Board has dealt and with which it is called upon to deal. Could you tell me the total number of holdings contained in the congested districts?—Yes; 84,668, as classified in return I will hand in.*

Mr. H.
Dean.

*See Table E, p. 275. The number originally given in evidence was 96,978, but this was only an approximate figure based on a revaluation of the congested districts counties and has also been found to be an excessive estimate. Some of the other figures originally given were also incorrect and have been changed. The figures now given throughout may be taken as accurate.—J. Jones.

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Mr. B.
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1837. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It is given as £6,000 in one of these memoranda?—That figure represents the number of families in the congested districts according to 1881 Census; not the number of holdings.

1838. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Could you state what area of land is covered by these 84,958 holdings?—I did not compute the area, but I can give you the valuation. The valuation is £332,951.

1839. Sir JOHN CORRY.—The poor law valuation of these holdings?—Yes.

1840. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Can you say whether these holdings, the 84,958, cover the entire area of the estates or the portions on which they are situated, or whether there is unoccupied land or waste land over and above the area of these holdings?—They cover the entire area of all holdings classed as agricultural in the Census return; non-agricultural holdings are not included.

1841. Could you say how much unoccupied land there is in the congested districts?—I can give you fairly reliable particulars for the counties of Mayo and Roscommon, for which I have had maps prepared.

1842. You cannot do it for the rest?—I cannot do it for the rest, except from returns supplied to me by the rate collectors.

1843. Of these 84,958 holdings, how many have been bought up by the Congested Districts Board?—The Congested Districts Board has bought 14,536 holdings, of which about 300 are outside the scheduled districts.

1844. What is the annual value of these 14,536 holdings?—The poor law valuation is £24,932.

1845. So that am I correct in saying that before the problem of congestion in the West is solved the Board will have to buy 70,000 odd holdings valued at about £428,000?—The Board have bought one-sixth of all the holdings in the congested districts, and some have also been purchased through the Land Commission.

1846. Roughly speaking, 70,000 holdings remain to be bought at an annual valuation of £458,000, so that the Congested Districts Board, having been working for fourteen or fifteen years, have only touched the fringe of the question?—They have been dealing with land to a large extent only since 1900.

1847. Or 1903?—In 1899 the first large estates were bought.

1848. Can you say how many estates were bought, and what the price was up to the passing of the Act of 1903?—The Board's operations in connection with land purchase have been under three Acts. Under the Act of 1894 they bought only three estates. They bought forty-six estates up to the Act of 1903.

1849. For what price, broadly speaking?—£556,679.

1850a. How many estates have they bought since the Act of 1903 came into operation, and how much did they pay?—One hundred and six estates, the purchase price being £1,333,756.

1850. I have a return here which includes the estates purchased up to date under the Act of 1903, showing £1,403,763?—That return of years must include four estates which the Board agreed to purchase, but which I did not include, as the transactions are not closed.

1851. Your figures as to the transactions, which are closed under Act of 1903 are £1,333,753?—Yes.

1852. It appears then that by far the greater bulk of the Board's work lies before it?—I hope so.

1853. What are the finances with which the Board has to deal, can manage and control in order to deal with this work—what regulates the pace at which the Board can proceed?—The Board only buy the poorest class of tenanted estates and such unoccupied land as they can acquire, with a view to the enlargement of the small holdings on the tenanted properties. They cannot re-arrange these poor

tenanted estates without incurring a substantial loss for the reason that a considerable amount of necessary expenditure in the way of fencing, road-making, and works of that kind, which are not directly productive, cannot be added to the selling price of the holdings without making them too dear.

1854. What is the amount which the Board can at present lose in the way which you mention?—Up to the present the Board have lost 6 per cent. on the transactions.

1855. What can it lose at the present time?—Only £11,000 a year.

1856. That is the measure of the Board's activity in the future?—That is to say, their capacity to lose is only £11,000 a year. They must, therefore, regulate the amount of land transactions by the loss which their finances will enable them to meet.

1857. The CHAIRMAN.—Will you explain why it is only £11,000 a year the Board can afford to lose?—In March of each year they make up their estimates, and allocate certain portions of their funds, for salaries, for salaries, for administration of their various schemes, and for commitments which they may be required to meet during the year. After setting apart the necessary amounts for these, they have only left about £11,000 which they may apply to cover their loss in the development of estates.

1858. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—What has been the average loss per cent. on the Board's purchases and improvement schemes up to the present time?—Six per cent. of the cost price of the estates.

1859. What is the annual amount of money which the Board can apply to the purchase of estates, having regard to the amount which they can lose on the improvements?—There is no hope that the Board can in future deal with the same class of estates as they have dealt with with such a small loss, mainly for the reason that they have to pay more for the estates, while the value of land has not increased. The cost of the re-arrangement and treatment of these lands is at least as much as it was, and less of the outlay has been added to the selling price of the land than has been added in the past. Consequently, the loss will be greater, and I think it is safe to say, especially if the Board confine themselves to dealing with the very poorest class of estates that cannot be sold with out special treatment, that these estates cannot be put into a satisfactory condition without a loss of at least 12 per cent., double what it was in the past. I should also say that this loss will be greater for the reason, that in the past, especially in the few large estates we dealt with, we retained them in hands for a considerable time—four or five years—and applied the revenue obtained from the estates to the improvement of them. That delay has been found undesirable fault with, perhaps with some reason, but the Board had no other means by which they could deal satisfactorily with the estates. They had not sufficient funds, and they considered it wiser to do the work as thoroughly as they could. They obliged the tenants to pay the rent, and they spent the difference between the interest which they paid on the purchase price of the estate and the rent collected, in the development of the estate. If they keep them a shorter time in hands, they will not be able to get funds for improvement of the estate from rent as heretofore.

1860. Then what is the amount of money which the Board will be able to apply to the purchase of estates, having regard to the limitation on the land which they can lose, that is to say, up to what amount per year will you be able to buy estates in future?—That depends altogether on the money placed at the disposal of the Board.

1861. It is determined by the amount of money you can lose. Consistently with losing £11,000 a year, how much would you be able to buy in future?—I am sorry I can't give you a more direct answer than to say that it depends on two things. If you leave the Board perfectly free, with sufficient staff and money, they can do a great deal in a short time.

1862. I am assuming that the Board will only have the same means as it has?—Then you can only keep on trying with the problem as you have been doing.

1863. But how much will you be able to buy each year, given only £11,000 to lose on improvements?—Before you buy any more you must get rid of what you have. Putting it another way, it would be about £100,000 a year roughly. That would be only 11 per cent. loss.

1864. That means, if there is no more money the Congested Districts Board comes to an end. Its operations cease?—Even if they only dealt with £100,000 a year they would do good, but the Board in such circumstances cannot make any mark on the problem that they were created to settle, but have not been provided with the means to set about the work in an effective manner.

1865. But the solution of the problem of congestion in the West would be postponed to the Greek Kalends under these circumstances. Consequently, what I am leading up to is, that if these be the conditions it follows either that congestion in the West cannot be relieved, or we must look to some other means than that supplied by the Congested Districts Board by which to relieve it?—Precisely. It comes to this, that if the Government mean to tackle the problem seriously they will give the Board sufficient funds to do it quickly and properly, especially if the Board can show that no other department can do it more economically.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I only wanted to put these questions in order that the Commission might see clearly what the problem is, and in order that they might see that merely the fringe of the problem has been touched as yet, and that it requires either an entire change of place or much more money before the true kernel of the problem can be touched.

1866. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—In the correspondence between Secretary and the Treasury it was stated that the future loss would be 8 per cent., and that, therefore, with only £11,000 to lose on improvements the Board would be able to buy estates to the extent of £140,000 a year. You have raised the loss to 12 per cent., which naturally reduces the purchasing power to below £100,000. Is that from further consideration?—Yes, and with the qualification, that later on I was going to make a proposal that the Board should be more discriminating even than they have been in the past, in purchasing only the very poorest class of tenanted estates and a large proportion of grass land.

1867. Subject to that, do you adhere to the £140,000 now, or to the £100,000?—I think if we buy estates not altogether of the poorest kind we could deal with them for a loss of 8 per cent. If the Board buy the poorest class of estates, that cannot be dealt with without the supervision of the Board or some similar body, the loss on re-arranging them and putting them in order will be, at least, 12 per cent.

1868. The CHAIRMAN.—You started by buying the very poorest estates you could find. The Pifreagh estate, for instance, and other estates of that kind were very poor?—It was a poor estate, but not very poor.

1869. Do you contemplate in the future buying estates even poorer than those you have already bought?—Some of those bought are the poorest that could be found, but, we bought some estates that were not of the very poorest character.

1870. Have you got any basis of calculation at all, or are you merely using your previous experience?—I give these figures deliberately from a close consideration of our operations up to the present.

1871. Mr. BAYNE.—Might I ask one question with regard to that matter of the percentage which I don't quite understand. You say the percentage of loss in future is more likely to be 12 per cent. than six?—Yes.

1872. If you buy an estate for £10,000 and lose 8 per cent. on it, that is £800. You say now you are going to pay more for the estate. Suppose you pay £15,000 you still don't spend more than £800?—The expenditure would be more than £800 in either event.

1873. You are going to pay £15,000 for an exactly similar estate, but there is no reason why you should lose any more in cash on improvements?—Yes, because we always add a portion of our expenditure to the first cost price of the estate. We buy an estate for £15,000. We may spend £5,000 on it, and we add to the selling price of the holdings under the head of enhanced value such an increase as we think reasonable and fair after consultation and arrangement with the tenants. We don't lose all our expenditure on the estate. We spend a great deal more on the estate than we actually lose. Let me take the case you put. You say that we now pay £15,000 for an estate for which some time ago we would have paid only £10,000. We spend £2,000 on it in either case. We could add the whole £3,000 in the latter case, and lose nothing on it, and yet it would be £3,000 cheaper than the way you put it. We could add our whole outlay to the £10,000, making the cost, plus improvements, £12,000 and we could therefore sell the estate at £12,000 as against £15,000, the price paid to render it in its unimproved condition. The usual procedure—to make the point clear—is, we spend a large sum on the estate, such sum as the Board think necessary. But, in fixing the selling price, the Board do not charge more for the holding in its improved condition than they are advised, is an easy rent, no matter what it cost them.

1874. The CHAIRMAN.—You told Sir Anthony MacDonnell you have been able to cheapen the ultimate cost to the Congested Districts Board by spending the revenues of these estates upon their improvement?—Yes.

Do these revenues amount to very much? I suppose you have to pay the interest to the Land Commission?—Yes.

1875. What interest do you pay?—3½ per cent.

1876. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You pay more. You pay the interest on the purchase price to the landlord, which he has contracted with you to pay?—That is pending the completion of sale.

1877. The CHAIRMAN.—I mean after it is varied, what do you pay?—3½ per cent., we pay to the Land Commission.

1878. What do you find in the average percentage you have over?—We have from 40 to 60 per cent. of the revenue to spend, according to price paid for estate.

1879. What do the rents you collect average while the estates are in your possession?—They would average more than 5 per cent. in the ordinary poor estate. Twenty years' purchase of an estate would be equivalent to 5 per cent.

1880. The average amount that you collect averages 5 per cent. upon the cost price?—If we buy a rental of £100 a year, twenty years' purchase of that would be £2,000, the capital sum. We have to pay for that 3½ per cent., that is £55. We get the £100 a year rent, and we have the difference to spend, less cost of collection.

1881. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Do you get the £100 a year?—Yes.

1882. It includes the cost of collection and the bad debts?—Yes.

1883. You don't collect anything like £100 a year in ordinary cases from the tenants?—Yes.

1884. How often are you pressed to reduce the rent immediately?—You are often pressed, but you have not done it except in a few cases.

1885. Look at the Dillon estate?—That is one of the cases, but you made them pay a substantial sum in discharge of arrears and a full year's rent before you agreed to give an abatement of rent pending sale.

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Mr. H.
Doran.

Sept. 11, 1905. 1885. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—After vesting do you pay $\frac{3}{4}$ l.—2s.

Mr. H. Duna.

1887. You said $\frac{3}{4}$ l.—2s. I should have said.

1888. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Don't you pay sinking fund also?—No. Under the Act of 1903 we only pay 2s.

1889. The CHAIRMAN.—What was the gross rental of the Dillon estate?—About £20,000.

1890. When you paid interest on the purchase money how much a year had you to spend on improvement?—In that case the Board were obliged to pay sinking fund as well as interest, that in at 4 per cent.; but they subsequently got back the sinking fund as paid. So the net result in the Dillon estate was they were only charged 2s per cent. interest on the money borrowed for purchase. The price of the estate was roughly £200,000.

1891. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Was it the sinking fund or the guarantee deposit you got back?—The sinking fund. It was paid in the 4 per cent., £1 5s. per cent. being sinking fund and £2 15s. interest. The interest at £3 15s. per cent. on £200,000 is £39,500, and as the rental was substantially £20,000, we had £11,750 a year to spend on the estate, while the tenants were obliged to pay the full rents, less by the cost of collection and bad debts.

1892. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What was the net result you get under that?—The Board's annual reports give those figures. Take it in this way. The Board have spent over £20,000 on the Dillon estate on land improvement, and they have made it without loss to the tenants, although they have not charged any tenant on the estate, who did not have his holding increased, more than sixteen years' purchase of the rental. The rental and poor law valuation were practically identical.

1893. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You got that estate cheap?—At fifteen years' purchase, which was about the average price of estates then purchased. People said it was too cheap, but it was about the poorest estate in Mayo having regard to its extent.

1894. The CHAIRMAN.—Since the Board was in operation 14,000 odd holdings have been bought?—Yes.

1895. Some of these were urban tenants?—Some of the holdings were in the villages and towns, but not urban.

1896. Do you know how many tenants have been improved?—There were 299 new holdings created, having an area of 8,101 acres and a rental of £4,321.

1897. How many of the 14,000 tenants have you dealt with?—We have dealt with about 6,000, and have 8,000 in hands, nearly all of whom are on estates purchased under the Act of 1903, and could not be dealt with owing to the delay in vesting these estates in the Board. The gross purchase price of the twelve estates vested on or before 31st March, 1905, was £9,000 which shows they were very small estates. Since March last we have not been able to do much with those estates. No stripping or re-arrangement of holdings can take place in summer when the crops are growing. We, therefore, have to wait until winter when the crops are out of the land. That is one of the reasons why we must be slow. The only time we have to effect re-arrangement is from October to March, when the land is uncropped. Except in preparing the way by the construction of roads, buildings, drains, and works of that kind little progress can be made in re-arrangement during the remainder of the year.

1898. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—So although the Board has bought a very large amount of property since the passing of the 1903 Act it has only been able to deal with very little of the property?—Very little.

1899. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you think of those 14,000 tenants 10,000 are agricultural tenants?—Practically they are nearly all agricultural tenants. That is to

say, if you take the villages of the estates, Loughglyn, Ballaghaderreen, Ballyvaughan, and Charlestown, &c., most of the merchants in those towns have agricultural holdings. You may take it that there are not more than 100 town tenants in the whole list who have not holdings of land.

1900. If you had the case of a man with a little business in the town and an agricultural holding which was uneconomic you would not propose to enlarge that holding, would you?—No; unless we had surplus land after satisfying the requirements of bona fide agricultural tenants who had to live on their holdings.

1901. Can you tell me how many of those 14,000 you have actually dealt with?—Yes. I have told you already we have sold about 6,000; we have created 299 new holdings, and we have enlarged 1,453 out of the 6,000. As to the number improved, they are practically all more or less improved, with very few exceptions, because, as I hope the Commission will have an opportunity of seeing for themselves, the Board have invariably done all the necessary main drainage so as to enable the individual holders to reclaim and improve their holdings. They have, made, where necessary, accommodation roads to facilitate the improvement of the lands, and in many cases where the houses were in clusters, or villages and the land scattered, as I have shown you on some of those maps, they have laid out the holdings in as few divisions as possible and connected the detached divisions with roads.

1902. You have sold 6,000 holdings to the tenants?—Yes.

1903. And you have got over 8,000 still in hands in the course of improvement?—We improved some of those, but in others the Board are not owners of them yet. They can do nothing with them before they are vested in the Board.

1904. These 14,000 tenants includes tenants on estates which are not yet vested in the Board?—Yes; estates which the Board have arranged to purchase, in which originating requests have been lodged with the Estates Commissioners, but in which the vesting has not been effected.

1905. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Or in which it has been effected recently?—Yes; where the originating request has been lodged with the Estates Commissioners.

1906. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Have these 1,453 enlarged holdings been transferred to tenants after being enlarged?—Yes.

1907. That is a completed transaction?—Yes. I am only giving you cases completed.

1908. The CHAIRMAN.—It comes to this: though you have been in existence for fifteen years you have only been able actually to improve and resell to the tenants 6,000 holdings?—Yes.

1909. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I might say that in the earlier part of the fifteen years they had no power?—Yes. The Board had only about half a dozen estates bought up to 1899.

1910. The CHAIRMAN.—Although your land operations have been carried on a fair scale since 1892 you have resold to tenants only 6,000 holdings?—Quite so. Again I would like to remind you that the Board could have done a great deal more if they could have got suitable land, and if they had money to buy it and to improve most estates.

1911. I am not in the least suggesting that it was the fault of the Board, and I quite understand your great difficulties. I only want to get the actual figure. You have given us the number of estates purchased in these three different periods. Up to 1896 there were three; between 1896 and 1903 there were forty-three; and since 1903 there were 106. Could you tell us what the difference in price was in these different periods?—Yes; in anticipation of your question I have prepared this Table, showing the particulars of the unsold land purchased:—

[Table.]

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1905. Sir JOHN COCHRAN.—The Land Court rental?—The rental which the landlord was legally entitled to collect.

1907. The CHAIRMAN.—What was the rate for untenanted land for that period?—It is given in the table submitted. Under the Act of 1883 the Board bought 2,025 acres, the estimated annual value of which was £232, and the purchase price £6,678, and the purchase rate was 3½ years. The untenanted land which the Board purchased under the Act of 1896 was 19,255 acres, the estimated fair value of which was £4,937, and the purchase price was £123,506, and the average rate of price was 25 years.

1908. You say that the average price of tenanted land for the second period was 15½ years and of untenanted land 25 years?—That is right. From 1903 the Board bought 52,283 acres, the estimated annual fair value of which was £112,570, and the purchase price was £346,431, equivalent to 27½ years' purchase of the estimated fair rent. That was untenanted land. During that time the price of the tenanted land varied. What they bought in 1903 was at 17½ years' purchase, and what they bought in 1904 ran up to 18½ years' purchase; what they bought in 1905 was 20½, and what they bought in 1906 was 19½.

1909. Can you tell us what the average was?—The average for the tenanted land purchased from 1903 to the present was about 18½ of yearly and first term rents and 21 of second term rents.

1910. You have told us the average for the second period was 15½ years' purchase?—Yes. 10½ years is the average for the tenanted land after 1903 and 27½ years for the untenanted.

1911. Mr. DRYCE.—I don't see how you can make out that, seeing that there was none above 19½?—There was one 20½, and that happened to be a year in which there were large transactions, 1905. It is only rough, but I think it will be a fair average. The prices quoted for tenanted lands include the rent and arrears due at the time of purchase.

1912. Mr. O'KELLY.—Who estimated the fair annual value of this land?—I did it myself. I was assisted by the land valuers, but, with a few exceptions, I had to inspect the land.

1913. The CHAIRMAN.—What is the reason of the increase in price: in the second period you had to give 15½ years' purchase for tenanted and 25 years for untenanted, whereas after 1903 you had to give 18½ for tenanted and 27½ for untenanted?—There were two reasons, I think. First, the market price of land increased because of the change in the method of financing the purchase. Previously the money which he required to purchase his holding was advanced to him on condition that for the first 10 years he paid 4 per cent., for the next 10 years £3 8s. 7d., and for the third decade £2 18s. 6d. A purchaser under the 1896 Act would pay annuities that for the first 30 years average only £3 8s. per cent., but most small landlords measure their bargain by the immediate relief they obtain in annuity as compared with the rent. To illustrate what I mean, let me take a £10 rental. He bought at 15 years' purchase under 1896 Act, and on that the price would be £150. On that his annuity for the first 10 years would be £6 in lieu of his previous rent of £10. His neighbour, on an adjoining property, offered his landlord 15 years' purchase, but that landlord would not take it, and said he would not accept less than 20 years. Then the Act of 1903 came in, and the tenant and landlord in the second case re-opened negotiations, and the tenant then finds that, while his previous offer would have left him liable for £6 a year for 10 years, under the financing of the 1903 Act, he could give 18½ years' purchase, or £185, and that on this larger price the annuity would come to £6 also. This purchaser is borrowing the money on more favourable terms, as far as he himself is concerned, under the Act of 1903 than a borrower under the previous Act. He is willing to give a higher number of years purchase because his annual payment is not higher than it would be under the 4 per cent. deal for the first ten years.

1914. It comes to this: you have found in your experience that so long as the tenant gets a reduction he is willing to pay an annuity carrying that reduction for 40 years, or for even 60 years?—That is the way they consider it. I don't at all say it is a sound way to look at it.

1915. You have found that?—That is the way they view it. That is one of the reasons why the price of

land has increased, because the tenant is being financed in a way that enables him to pay a higher price without making his annual payments higher than he would have had to pay under the previous Land Acts.

1916. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is it the extension of the time for repayment that really makes the difference?—Yes. The difference between the two is this, that a 4 per cent. annuity means that the tenant is charged 2½ per cent. for interest on the advance, and £1 5s. is a repayment of capital. In the case of the financing of the Act of 1903 there is the same interest, 2½ per cent., but only ten shillings per cent. is paid in reduction of capital. It simply means that the tenant takes 6½ years to repay the capital at the rate of ten shillings per £100 per year, while he would have paid it off in 45 or 46 years at the rate of £1 5s. a year.

1917. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Mr. Mitchell told us that before the Act of 1903 came into operation land sales had ceased, because the landlords who could afford to sell cheaply had been exhausted, and because there only remained the landlords who could bide their time; is there anything in that?—There is a good deal in it. It is generally admitted that the more ready landlords sold because their creditors pressed them, and some of the larger and more generous-minded landlords sold at prices which they knew to be low.

1918. Therefore it is right to say that the price of land rose; would it not be more correct to say that the market for cheap land had ceased?—I think both statements are true to an extent. The price of the sample of the land has increased very much. The prices I refer to are irrespective of the bonus.

1919. Compared with the previous standard?—Yes; although the actual value of land has not increased in the meantime.

1920. In your operations was the land you bought after 1903, generally speaking, of better quality than the land which you purchased before 1903?—The tenanted land would be much of the same character. The untenanted land is better.

1921. The CHAIRMAN.—Was that mainly because in your original operations, when you had very little money at your disposal, you had to choose very poor estates, estates which you could get very cheaply?—Between 1891 and 1896 there was not much property selling in the congested districts, and what was being sold the owners did not offer to the Board.

1922. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Before 1903 comparatively few estates were coming into the market?—Yes.

1923. In your opinion was that due to a considerable extent to the fact that in the years immediately preceding 1903 land stock had been notably depressed?—That was one of the reasons.

1924. Is it a fact that land stock, which before the Beer War, had been at a premium, afterwards, especially after 1900, was at a discount?—That is so. When the Board purchased the Dillon estate Lord Dillon's English solicitor declared to take Irish land stock, and the Board agreed to pay him in cash. Land stock at the time was selling at 14 per cent. premium, but before they could get the transaction through it had dropped to about 7 per cent. in the course of a few months. The net result was that the Board made about £15,000 out of the refusal of the solicitor not to deal in Irish land stock, which they put into the drains and roads on the Dillon estate.

1925. Did not the depreciation of land stock amount for the fact that comparatively little land came into the market?—I would say it should. Landlords would not sell when they found they had to take, instead of cash, land stock which realised from 5 to 12 per cent. less than par value.

1926. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you imagine that you have reached the high-water mark of price: have you got any reason to suppose that the price will go on increasing, or do you think you have reached the limit?—In my opinion, land is selling beyond its value.

1927. Do you think you will get higher: I understood you to say, in answer to Sir Anthony MacDonnell, that you thought you would have to pay just for estates in the future?—I don't think I said that.

1928. Perhaps I misunderstood you. I thought for your two points were, you would have to pay more on estates and the amount you would have to lose on them would also be more?—What I meant to convey was the Board had to pay more for estates purchased

purchased since the Act of 1922 than they had paid for estates purchased under the previous Acts.

1902. But you have no reason to think that the average price will be greater in the immediate future than it has been for the last few years?—I don't know really what to say, because the tenants in some districts are so anxious to become owners of their land, especially when they owe arrears that can be dealt with in the negotiations for the purchase of the estate. On poor estates where the tenants owe two or three years' arrears they can always be induced to agree to give a high price in order to get those arrears cleared off and to start anew.

1903. Sir ANTHONY MACDONELL:—Would you develop that point?—I may put it this way. If you go to some of the poor parts of Mayo, where the tenants owe two or three years' rent for a property that, in my opinion, would not be worth more than sixteen years' purchase, they would agree to buy at twenty or getting a clear receipt for arrears, especially if they are not asked to pay anything at the time. They are always attracted by the immediate relief the bargain brings them, and they also reason on it in this way:—"My rent is only three pounds a year. Two or three years' purchase makes little difference." If I agree to three years' purchase more than I think fair, I will get rid of my landlord and of my load of arrears, it only means nine pounds more, or about six shillings a year added to the annuity." They think it a good bargain to free themselves from the landlord and from arrears on these terms or even higher terms, when they are not required to make a cash payment. It does not seem to make a great deal of difference either in the individual transactions.

1904. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT:—How do they get rid of the arrears?—The Land Act provides that after agreeing with the tenant for the purchase of the holding, a sum not exceeding one year may be added to the purchase price of the holding and advanced by the State. What usually happens in this. The vendor says to the tenant or tenants in arrears:—"If you agree to purchase your holding for so many years' purchase all arrears will be cancelled on your agreeing to add an additional year's rent to the price and pay me in cash one half-year," or he may say, "I will not ask you to pay any rent if you purchase your holding for the sum of £——" which may be two or three years' more than if there were no arrears.

1905. Mr. O'KELLY:—Are arrears used as a lever in any cases to force up prices?—I would not like to say they are used as a lever, but they act in that way. A tenant wants to get rid of arrears. A landlord desires to make the best bargain he can as he is pacting with his tenant for ever. Owing to the anxiety of the tenant to become owner of his holding, and to get rid of the arrears, he is, in all such cases, prepared to pay far more than the price that would be fixed as a fair full price by persons who had no direct interest in the deal.

1906. Sir JOHN CORMACK:—Does it not really mean this, that in such an arrangement as that it is enabling the tenant by a system of instalments spread over a long time to start clear under less rent on his holding?—That is the declared policy of the Act.

1907. Is it not the case that if the landlord pressed the tenant, and came into court, the County Court Judge would, under the law, allow that man to pay that debt off by instalments spread over a very short period of time: is not that so?—Yes.

1908. So the whole thing comes to this, that any arrears added is spreading the instalments over a long number of years and enabling the man to start perfectly clear with a reduced rent: is not that it?—That is so. It has a special advantage to the tenant in that way, but it obviously reduces the security for the advance. There is a sum advanced for which the holding may not afford security.

1909. About this rise in the value of land, you have observed the landlord demands an increased price for all the reasons which have been given: is it not the case that side by side with this there is an increased demand for, and increased prices given, for the tenant's interest?—Yes.

1910. Then, if you take value as what a thing fetches in the market, it is not only a question of the landlord's, but also of the tenant's interest. They are paying more for the tenant's interest than they did?—Yes. The value of an article in the market is regulated, as a rule, by the supply and demand. Comparatively few small holdings come into the market. When one is offered for sale there are many

competitors for it. In support of the statement that comparatively few small holdings change hands through sale, I may refer to page 122 of the Board's Fourteenth Annual Report, in which particulars in connection with the Dillon estate are given. From information collected from the compilers of 3,847 holdings, only 214 tenants had acquired their holdings by purchase within the past thirty years. These figures may be taken as typical of the Connaught composed districts, and they show that very few small holdings come into the market, and when they do, they realise a price which is not in any way based on the profit derivable from the holding.

1911. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT:—If the arrears are met by adding to the number of years' purchase, the result is, is it not, that the land to that extent comes to be a good security for the purchase money?—To at least that extent, and further, to the extent to which that price has been raised, through the character of the settlement, which enables the tenant to get arrears nominally wiped out by proportionately increasing the price he agrees to purchase the holding at. So it is not to be measured alone by the amount actually added. To that has to be added the price which has resulted from his anxiety to get his indebtedness to the landlord discharged in that way.

1912. Sir JOHN CORMACK:—You turned to the Dillon estate to illustrate the methods of procedure in these cases of buying land and developing it. I want to just ask you one or two questions about that to see if I am correct. You gave £350,000 for the Dillon estate?—Yes.

1913. The rental was £30,000 a year?—Yes.

1914. During the interregnum you were in receipt of the rents that Lord Dillon had been in receipt of. Is not that so?—Yes.

1915. And you made a certain profit, because the £350,000 was borrowed at two and three-quarters per cent.?—Yes; I explained we actually paid four, but we subsequently got a refund of 25s. per cent., representing repayment of capital, therefore two and three-quarters per cent. was the rate of interest for the loan of that money.

1916. Therefore you were in the position of a new proprietor who had got a mortgage of £350,000 on his property, bearing two and three-quarters per cent. interest?—Perhaps it may be put in in that way.

1917. In order to acquire that property you had to borrow £350,000 at two and three-quarters per cent., and Lord Dillon gets it, and has cleared out of the estate?—Yes.

1918. What you have to pay is about £9,000 a year?—Yes. £9,250.

1919. Therefore you are holding for £8,250 a year the property that Lord Dillon was getting £30,000 a year out of. Is not that so?—Yes, substantially.

1920. That is the gross, but we must deduct from the rent something for management, agency, law, losses, and taxes?—Yes.

1921. Do you think forty per cent. of the total rental would be fair to estimate for those necessary outgoings?—It would be a good deal too much.

1922. I will take it as forty per cent. Now forty per cent. taken off the £30,000 left the net rental of Lord Dillon at £12,000?—Yes.

1923. Therefore you were getting £12,000 a year though you were only paying interest of £9,000 a year in the interregnum?—Yes.

1924. Therefore the net gain during the interregnum would be £3,000 a year?—In the way you are putting it. But it was £11,000 a year roughly—the difference between £9,000 and £20,000.

1925. I take £20,000 a year as a gross rental; I take forty per cent. off that, which is £8,000; that makes £12,000 a year rental. Putting it in that way, you are only paying £9,000 a year, because you get the money at two and three-quarters per cent. Therefore that means that you are benefitting to the extent of £3,000 a year during an interregnum?—Yes.

1926. The position of Lord Dillon was that whereas the net rental was really £12,000 a year, having invested the £350,000 at 5½ per cent., he was only in receipt of £30,500 a year?—That was his business.

1927. I don't mean to say it was not influenced by the value of money in the market?—The price would rise under ordinary conditions when a purchaser can get the money cheaper to make the purchase.

1928. Yes. That is so. As a matter of fact the Government are advancing the money to tenants to

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purchase their holdings at a cheaper rate than they can get it?—

1976. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Aristing out of that, I would ask this question, whether, on the Dillon estate alone, when you bought it, excluding all extraneous sources of income to the Dillon tenants, a rental of £12,000 a year, in your opinion, could be paid by the Dillon tenants from their holdings, as a fair rent?—If they did not migrate as they now do—

1977. From the profits and produce of their holdings, and excluding their earnings in England and elsewhere, would they be able to gain £12,000 a year? Would £12,000 be a fair rent for the land of the Dillon estate when you bought it?—Excuse me for saying that you ask me to assume that they would not be at liberty to leave the estate and work elsewhere.

1978. Would £12,000 be a fair economic rent for the Dillon estate when you bought it?—I think it was reasonably rented.

1979. The rent was £20,000. Was £20,000 a reasonable rent?—A demesne was included in that.

1980. The CHAIRMAN.—Were the rents judicially fixed?—They were nearly all fixed at the Poor Law Valuation by arrangement out of Court. It was considered to be moderately rented as compared with the adjoining estates. That is the best answer I can give you.

1981. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—How would you contrast this with the rent of the De Freyne estate?—Much about the same.

1982. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Is not it a fact that almost three-fourths of the migrants of the County Mayo come from that particular district, in which the Dillon estate is included?—A very large number of the migratory labourers come from the Swinford union, in which the Dillon estate is situate.

1983. If you hold that the rent was a moderate rent, how do you account for the large annual exodus of migratory labourers to England from that district?—Because there are in this and the adjoining estates in the Swinford union a large number of small holdings which are not of sufficient size to enable families to live on them without aid from extraneous sources. And the crops of these small holdings therefore make it a custom to migrate to England every year, usually from June to November, and some of them on the smallest holdings from March to November. During the time they are there they maintain themselves and save money, which varies from £5 to £15. They bring that home saved, or send it home while they are away. That, and the produce of the holdings, together with the fact that they maintain themselves during half the year, or a longer period outside their holdings, enable them to rear their families on the small farms they occupy.

1984. What proportion of the £12,000 a year paid to Lord Dillon was earned in England?—The land earned the £12,000 a year—I would not define rent as the margin left after the family is provided for. On that definition there would be no rent payable out of unenclosed holdings occupied by resident tenants.

1985. What is your theory of an economic rent? Would not you define as an economic rent the margin left over after the necessities of the family had been provided for?—If you accept that definition of rent it would mean there would be no rent payable out of any land which did not fulfil your first condition, namely, support the family. On your proposition, the rent of a holding would vary according to the size of the family; and if a small holding had not a resident occupier he would be liable for rent, while if he lived on the same holding, and had a large family, rent would disappear, or he may have to be paid for living on the holding.

1986. But you do hold that the rent paid on the Dillon estate was economic rent?—I want to make myself quite clear. As the term rent is usually understood in that locality and district, the people considered that the Dillon holdings were moderately rented.

1987. Although they had to earn the rent for them in England?—Although they could not live upon them without supplementing their earnings by going to England.

1988. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are you of opinion that one of the causes of the increase in the price of land was due to the extension of the period of repayment under the Act of 1903?—Yes.

1989. And that implied that the previous pur-

chasers considered themselves to be at a disadvantage as compared with the purchasers under the Act of 1903?—No; but they made better terms with the landlord, because they refused to become liable for the payment of an annuity, which was not substantially less than the rent then payable. They look upon it in the same way now without understanding the finance of the transaction.

1990. But they consider that they are at a disadvantage as compared with purchasers under the Act of 1903?—No; the previous purchasers consider they had the best bargain.

1991. If they were given the alternative to purchase under the Act of 1903, would they exercise that preference?—I think that purchase would cease, because the landlord would not sell at the prices the tenants would pay. Let me put it in another way. A tenant when he thinks about buying his holding, knowing what his neighbours did, says to himself, "If I can buy my holding now, and can make myself liable for an annuity of six shillings in the £ less than my previous rent, I'll make my deal." Thus man only thinks of the present, and if he finds he will put himself in a position to secure a substantial reduction for ten years, as a rule he lets the future take care of itself. He is not as careful as he ought to be about the future.

1992. Therefore he takes his chance for the future provided he gets immediate relief?—Yes.

1993. Immediate relief given by the extension of the time for repayment?—That is the inducement to him. Immediate relief is his measure of benefit.

1994. Would not that be a motive that would appeal equally strongly to the other purchaser if he had it? He bought under a shorter period; consequently his payments are higher?—In the case of the purchaser who accepts a decadal reduction, his payments extend over identically the same period, sixty-eight and a half years, as a purchaser under 1903 Act. It is only when a borrower continues to pay 4 per cent. for the entire period that he discharges the advance and interest in forty-seven years.

1995. It is the rate of interest that is different?—No; it is the repayment of capital. If a man continues to pay 4 per cent. for forty-seven years he pays the whole advance with interest. Under the Act previous to the Act of 1903 the purchaser had an option at the end of ten years of accepting what is called a decadal reduction, that is, having his annuity reduced to 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ for the second ten years; and then at the end of that period having it reduced to a still lower figure.

1996. So that really the old purchaser is in a better position?—Yes, because he fixed a smaller price for his holding; he is paying it in a different way, by a different method. He has got his holding at a lower price.

1997. The CHAIRMAN.—I think it was part of Sir John Colomb's argument that 60 per cent. of the revenue of the Dillon estate was spent in outgoings, cost of collection, and so on?—Sir John said that, but I did not assent.

1998. Then it did not cost as much as that?—No; His estimate is much in excess of what the outgoings were.

1999. Do you know what the amount was?—I believe it was about 20 per cent. of gross rental.

2000. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You say that the £20,000 rental on the Dillon estate was considered to be reasonable?—Yes.

2001. It was fairly moderate?—It was, at the poor law valuation, which, in that district, was considered a fair standard.

2002. Assuming that Sir John Colomb's figures are approximately right, Lord Dillon, if he invests his money at 34 per cent., gets an income of £20,500?—For investing his £200,000.

2003. Therefore, he sacrificed by the sale an income of £20,500. What reason do you suggest he had for that?—He was not always able to collect the whole rental, and the property was rarely free from agitation against payment of rent.

2004. How much of the £20,000 on an average, year by year, was it that Lord Dillon collected?—The cash he received for the year before the Board bought the estate was £16,847. That is, excluding the demesne.

2005. On such an estate as that, would 15 per cent. be a fair deduction to make for the cost of collection?—Save 20 per cent. for bad debts, law costs, and costs of collection.

2005. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Take 20 per cent. on £20,000, that would be £4,000; take £4,000 from £15,000. That leaves him an income of £11,000.

2006. Sir JOHN COLVILLE.—You say I stated that the landlord sacrificed £9,500?

2007. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I did not mean to attribute that to you, but was explaining the process of reasoning in my mind. We have come to this—Lord Dillon collected on that estate year by year an income of £15,000?—Yes.

2008. From that he had to pay away the cost of collection, which, you said, was 20 per cent?—I would include the cost of collection in the 20 per cent.

2009. The CHAIRMAN.—Let us understand whether you include the demesne. I understood the gross rental of the estate, including the demesne, was £25,000?—Yes; about £25,000.

2010. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The demesne was not large?—It was about 1,500 acres, and there were also three outlying grass farms.

2011. What would be the net income that Lord Dillon was collecting from the estate, year by year?—I could not say just now, but can give you reliable figures after examination of the rentals.

2012. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Could you give us the rental, excluding the demesne and these outlying farms?—No. I did not know I would be questioned about these matters.

2013. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What was the poor law valuation of the demesne and the lands?—About £30,000 the whole thing. I cannot give them separately now.

2014. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—What I want to come at is with regard to the fifteen years' purchase, which you say the Dillon estate fetched, whether in arriving at that number of years' purchase any other fact intervened besides the fair rent and the multiple of years' purchase—whether there was any element of instability in the recovery of the yearly rents?—There was always a good deal of trouble in or about the estate.

2015. Was there instability in the rental?—Yes.

2016. Consequently Lord Dillon sold cheap?—He was anxious, I believe, to get rid of the property, and to treat his tenants generously.

2017. Consequently fifteen years' purchase could scarcely be taken as the standard of sale at the time in that locality?—As a matter of fact it was, substantially. And I think in fixing the price that he ought to accept, he was influenced by the fact that similar poor estates in the county were only selling at that rate. He got quite as much as the neighbouring landlords got at the time. Of course if he knew that the Act of 1903 was coming he would not have sold, as he would have got the bonus and perhaps a higher price. But he made as good a bargain as any other landlord of a poor estate in the neighbourhood at the time. I am quite sure he thought so himself. He had the reputation of being a very kindly man, and though he practically never saw his tenants, he wished that they should be well treated.

2018. The CHAIRMAN.—What we asked for is, I see, in the reports of the Board: the gross rental was £20,370; the net rental was £17,822, excluding the outgoings, which amounted to £2,448; the price was £250,000, equal to sixteen years' purchase of the net rental?—That £250,000 was subject to charges which had to be redeemed subsequently, and which brought the price to something over £200,000—tidal-rent charges, drainage charges, and charges of that kind.

2019. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Had the Board a right to collect the arrears?—They had.

2020. Mr. O'KELLY.—Was not the average fifteen years' purchase in the scheduled districts, and seventeen outside the scheduled districts, at that time in the County Mayo?—Yes. That is what I have said. I have made no special inquiry into it. But I knew that was about the price at which estates were being sold in the poor parts of County Mayo at that time.

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Mr. E.
Doran.

The Commission adjourned.

FIFTH PUBLIC SITTING.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 1906,

AT 10.30 A.M.

At 35, Dawson-street, Dublin.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUDLEY, G.C.V.O. (Chairman); The Right Hon. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL, G.C.S.I.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMER, K.C.M.G.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANKAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; CONOR O'KEILY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., B.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.; and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

MR. HENRY DORAN FURTHER EXAMINED.

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2021. The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. DORAN, I am afraid that in our discussion with regard to the Dillon estate we led you away perhaps a little from the scheme which you had in your mind, and therefore I am rather anxious that we should go back to your scheme to-day, that you should be given an opportunity to follow what you had arranged, but I understand that before coming to that you have prepared a statement which you are going to make to the Commission about the general problem?—Yes. I think it would be desirable to give some figures that would enable the Commission to get before their minds at once the magnitude of the problem, and then that I should revert to the heads of my evidence. If any members of the Commission require information about any particular estate or matter I have the files at hand here to refer to; otherwise I may not be able to give at once the desired information in a satisfactory manner. The congested districts of Ireland, that is the scheduled districts, are coloured blue on this map. They are included in eight counties, or I should say now, nine counties, for one electoral division, that of Mount Shannon, which was part of the County Galway, was included in the County of Clare when the county boundaries were altered under the last Local Government Act. At present, therefore, these scheduled districts are in nine of the western counties of Ireland, only one electoral division being in the County of Clare. Taking the population of the whole of Ireland at four and a half millions, the population of these scheduled congested districts is 506,723, or one-ninth, roughly. The Poor Law Valuation of these congested districts, which contain one-ninth of the population, is only one-nineteenth of the entire valuation of the agricultural holdings of Ireland, excluding the urban districts and the cities. Therefore one-ninth of the population of Ireland live on land which has only a valuation of one-nineteenth of the entire valuation of Ireland, excluding the towns and cities. Then, as regards area. The total area of the congested districts is 3,520,331 acres, that is, one-sixth of the gross area of Ireland. I take the area of Ireland roughly at twenty million acres. Then you have these three facts—that one-ninth of the population live in the scheduled districts on one-ninth of the area of Ireland; and this area has only one-nineteenth of the entire valuation, which indicates its poor character.

2022. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—One-nineteenth of the rating?—One-nineteenth of the Poor Law valuation. Outside those scheduled areas there are many poor districts also, but they are more isolated, and are not of large extent comparatively speaking. I ought to say that in my opinion there can be no doubt that the poorest districts of Ireland, as a whole, are coloured blue on that map, but there are smaller areas of congestion outside these districts, where you will find very poor people. It may help the Commission to keep these main factors before their minds when they come to discuss the details. I should like to refer to some of the figures arising out of Sir Anthony MacDonnell's question last night as to the number of holdings. He asked me to find out the

number of holdings that were sold in the congested districts. There are no statistics available to give the number accurately, but I believe the figures I am about to read for you will be found approximately accurate. Excluding town and other non-agricultural holdings, there are about 85,000 holdings in the congested districts. Of those 74,413 are under £10 Poor Law Valuation or rateable value, and it is these 74,000 holdings that mainly come within the concern of the Congested Districts Board; for holdings over £10 valuation are commonly regarded, and I believe properly regarded, as economic.

2023. Mr. O'KEILY.—That would be 11,000 economic holdings amongst these?—Yes. Of the 74,413 that I have just given you, which are under £10 valuation, 45,129 of those holdings are at valuations that do not exceed £4. The gross poor law valuation of these 45,129 holdings is £102,428, or an average rateable value of £2 5s. 8d. per holding. These are the worst cases, having an average valuation per head of less than 10s.

2024. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You told us you would say how many of these had been sold?—Oh, yes, I beg pardon. There are about 13,000 sold out of the 85,000, including holdings sold by the Congested Districts Board.

2025. Mr. BRYCE.—You mean purchased and re-sold to the tenants? They have been purchased by the tenants; some direct from the landlords, and the remainder from the Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners.

2026. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Otherwise than the Congested Districts Board?—The 13,000 have been sold through the Land Commission, and they include holdings dealt with by direct sale, and by the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board.

2027. Mr. BRYCE.—That is, of the 85,000?—If you will allow me, I will go over these figures again. I stated that there were about 85,000 holdings in the entire congested districts. Of those there have been sold to the occupying tenants through the Land Commission, the Estates Commissioners, and Congested Districts Board, approximately 13,000. The exact figure, I think, are 13,313, but they may be taken as round numbers at 13,000. That leaves you 72,000. Of those 72,000 the Board have on hands 8,000. I told you yesterday that they had bought 14,000 sold, and that they had sold of those about 6,000.

The CHAIRMAN.—The 6,000 is included in the 13,000?

2028. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—No, entirely different?—I believe, Sir Anthony, the returns furnished by the Estates Commissioners, from which my figures have been taken, include the sales through the Congested Districts Board; but I will find that out for certain during the day.

2029. They may. If they have regard to statements they necessarily would?—I would not go to take it on the assumption that the Land Commission figures include the 6,000, and I will correct this in the morning if necessary.

2030. I think you had better for present purposes consider that the 14,000, which have passed through

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your hands, are independent of the 13,000?—Very well, sir.

2031. Mr. BYRNE.—Perhaps, Mr. Doran, you could say of the balance of 72,000 the Congested Districts Board have bought so many and re-sold how many?—They have bought 14,536.

2032. And re-sold?—I gave you the round figure of 6,000; the accurate figures are 5,554.

2033. The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Doran, tell us, just in order to make this clear, if those 6,000 holdings sold through the means of the Congested Districts Board are included in the 13,000, the gross total sold, are we to deduct from the 72,000 which remain the 8,000 which have been bought and not yet re-sold?—I mean, does that mean that there are 64,000 holdings still unsold with?—From the 85,000 you deduct the 13,000 for certain.

2034. That brings you down to 72,000?—That brings you down to 72,000. The only point which you are now in doubt about is whether that 13,000 includes the 5,554 that the Board have sold.

2035. But supposing for a moment that it does, you then, don't you, have to deduct the number of holdings which the Board have got in their possession, but which are not yet re-sold?—Yes.

2036. And that number, I take it, is 8,000?—8,000 odd.

2037. And if you deduct that from the 72,000 that gives you approximately 64,000 holdings in the congested area not yet dealt with?—Approximately, it does. Then, I ask you to remember that of that number a considerable proportion of the holdings are over £30 poor law valuation, economic holdings. They are not all uneconomic, which fact reduces the dimensions of the problem.

2038. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But those that are over £30, must they be deducted from the 64,000 be the purpose of considering what is before you?—Yes; when considering the cases that need the Board's special attention.

The CHAIRMAN.—A proportion of the 11,000 economic holdings (less any that have been bought from the Land Commission, and are therefore included in the 13,000 already deducted) has got to be deducted from that total of 64,000.

2039. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—They won't buy the 64,000 at all necessarily?—Well, we should have to buy many of them, for, where they are mixed up in an estate they cannot be separated from the small holdings. I mean the landless would not sell to the Board, nor would the Board ask him to do so, only the small holdings on the estate on the condition that he was to retain the larger ones. We buy estates in blocks. But an important point is this, Sir Francis, that the treatment of these economic holdings does not, as a rule, involve any loss to the Board's funds.

2040. You would not attempt to increase them?—If they were holdings in detached parts, or held in any inconvenient way that we could improve, although the rateable value was over £10, we would try to put them into a better shape.

2041. On those economic holdings there would not be over 12 per cent. of loss?—There would be no loss, as a rule.

2042. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are not some of those 11,000 economic holdings included in the 13,512 holdings already sold?—Yes.

2043. There are 25,000 altogether, including these economic holdings. 13,000 of those are sold. You have 72,000 left, including economic holdings, all kinds of holdings. Is not that a fair way to put it?—And, if the Board have 8,000 purchased and not re-sold there are only, as Lord Dudley stated it, approximately 64,000 holdings left, of which the same proportion, I will assume, is still economic, as the proportion of the original gross number of 85,000. Very soon through the operations of the Board, there would be another reduction of the 64,000 holdings?—Yes, but in Connaught the Land Purchase Act of 1903 is not operating at all as quickly as it is in the other parts of Ireland.

2044. Mr. BYRNE.—At present you have 8,000 holdings on your hands?—8,000 and odd, yes.

2045. Those holdings were acquired mainly under the operation of the Land Act of 1903?—Yes.

2046. At what rate do you anticipate will these holdings be sold to the occupying tenants in an improved condition?—Well, I stated yesterday if the Government does not give the Board sufficient funds to bear the loss involved in the treatment of those poor estates, and sufficient staff to get the work done quickly I could not say how long it may take. If they do what they ought to do, the special treatment of these estates will eventually cost the Government less if they provide sufficient money to do the work quickly and in a satisfactory way, than by spreading this money over a number of years. The more expeditiously the work is done the less expense it will be, but it cannot be done very quickly for the reasons I explained yesterday, that very poor estates which need radical change, cannot be put in a satisfactory condition in a shorter period than at least two years, and frequently three years. The stumping of holdings, making roads, getting holdings improved and erected, cannot be done rapidly, mainly for the reasons that I called your attention to yesterday that little change can be made in any of the holdings except during the period of the year when the land is uncropped, that is from October to March. That fact hinders us greatly, and critics who do not understand it, are more severe than they ought to be when they are censuring the Board for its slow progress.

2047. Sir JAMES COLSON.—During that period a large amount of work has to be suspended?—Yes.

2048. And it is still shorter precisely?—As a rule we employ every able-bodied man and strong boy on the estate we are dealing with every day we can get them to work.

2049. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—To get at the dimensions of the problem more closely, Mr. Doran, if you deduct from the 72,000 holdings the 8,000, and if you make the same allowance for the proportion of economic holdings, how many holdings remaining, do you think, should be improved by an enlargement?—You may take it that about 60 per cent. of the holdings in congested districts are uneconomic.

2050. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Of the 8,000 holdings you have still on hands, is there a large proportion economic?—Only a small proportion, but we have a large area of untenanted land also on hands.

2051. And do they sell more quickly or readily?—We have 8,000 holdings, of which I will say 6,000 are uneconomic, but we have land purchased, which would enable us to make them all economic holdings if a sufficient number of the tenants would migrate, but we are not yet owners of this land, and consequently cannot go on with our work.

2052. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And practically in outline, will you give us what proportion of these uneconomic holdings would be improved by addition of land, and what proportion otherwise?—Perhaps it may now be well that I should proceed to explain this map.* I have divided the scheduled districts into three classes. First there is the maritime, lying west of that outer black line all round the seaboard and marked A on map. When considering what can be done for the benefit of these districts, enlargement of holdings cannot be regarded as a practicable remedy, for a sufficient number of families to appreciably relieve congestion would not migrate to the inland districts, if the land were available.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What population is contained in these districts?

2053. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—171,183?—The population of this maritime area is 174,860 persons, or about one-third of the entire population of the scheduled congested districts.

2054. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You do not mean to convey that there is no land in that area for enlargement of holdings, but only that it is unappealable?—There is practically no land in that area for the enlargement of holdings.

2055. You do not think it a practical suggestion that the population would migrate inland to larger holdings?—No, they would not go, which is an in-

* See map in Appendix IV.

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superable objection; they have no capital, and not having been accustomed to manage land in the way in which it is managed inland, there would be little chance of their succeeding.

2037. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But they would learn?—They would learn if you could wait, but without capital they could not succeed.

2038. The capital being supplied?—There is no capital being applied. If it were supplied a number of them may migrate. I would not say that an old man would not go, but to put it more accurately, I would say a sufficient number of people would not migrate inland to appreciably relieve congestion amongst those who remain.

2039. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would you look upon it as feasible by improved fishing and improved agriculture to greatly improve the condition of the people along the seaboard?—Yes. My view is that, that the Board ought to treat that particular district in a special manner, and do everything possible within reasonable limits to develop the fishing and seaweed industries. The people along most of that coast, except where there are steep cliffs—which prevent easy access to the sea—live mainly not from the land, but from the proceeds of fishing and from the sale of kelp.

2040. Is there not a combination of farming and fishing?—Some land is essential, and consequently the most ought to be made out of the little they have. I would say that in that district the Board ought to do very much as they do inland, in stripping and arranging the holdings and helping the people to house themselves in a decent manner, with the object of enabling them to get from their little patches of land sufficient potatoes and vegetables, and also sufficient milk to supply the needs of their families, while they must look to the sea for their main source of living. They could not possibly live on the land alone.

2041. Mr. O'KEEFE.—After the needs of the people in the congested area had been satisfied, would you have any surplus land remaining to which you could migrate the people who are west of the black line?—My investigations and figures only cover counties containing congested districts, and within those counties there is not sufficient land to meet the requirements of the persons who would be likely to migrate, so that if provision is to be made for those I have classed as not likely to migrate, you would have to place many of them a long distance inland. There is land in Ireland for all if migration to that extent were possible.

2042. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Would not it be injurious to the general interests of the country if you were to divert the maritime population from the employment in which they were brought up, to an employment in agriculture with which they are not acquainted?—I do not consider it feasible.

2043. My question is, would it not be injurious to the general interests of the country so far as the fishing and seafaring population is concerned?—I would think so. And although their land resources are extremely meagre, yet going amongst them, as I do, I find a number of those people able to live comfortably according to their own standards, especially in the districts where the fishing is successful. They get abundance of fish for food, which is very important; and where they have, in addition to that, sufficient land to grow an acre of potatoes for themselves and their families, and graze a cow, they live quite comfortably.

2044. Does not the fishing industry meet the whole of that case—is not it susceptible of very great improvement?—I do not pretend to have any expert or special knowledge about it; you will get information about that from the staff of the Fisheries Department. But from my observation, I consider it capable of immense development, and that the Board are too much afraid of losing money in its development. It may be that the funds were not available, but I don't think that the Board could be blamed if they lost even a large sum of money in making a thorough and earnest effort to develop the fishing. If they had made a real effort to do this and failed, they could not be blamed.

2045. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—On the agricultural side, do you state that the small holdings of that maritime population could be greatly improved?—Oh, immensely improved, as I will show you by-and-by from the maps of estates dealt with.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Improved or extended?

2046. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Improved. Cannot their agricultural holdings be greatly improved, even without extension?—Very greatly improved, because over a very considerable area of this fringe along the sea-coast, where the people, as I have said, live mainly by fishing, they have subdivided the land more than in any other place, with the result that you frequently find a man having £3 worth of land in a dozen or more different patches. I have some maps here showing actual cases. What we would do in a case like that, is to strip these holdings; that is, to give a landholder who had his holding in perhaps ten or twelve different scattered places, a holding of equivalent value in say two places, or, if the land varied very much, in three places, and have each of those divisions fenced, with the result that he may have his £3 worth of land in two places instead of ten or twelve. He can then make much more out of it, and he and his family will set about improving it in a way that they would never attempt while it was scattered here and there. The action of the Board in the few cases they have dealt with in that way has resulted in a very great improvement from an agricultural point of view. Notwithstanding the better arrangement of the land, the people could not possibly live on the land alone; but what they can do now is this—they can keep a cow and grow an acre of potatoes and some vegetables, and they get from their £3 worth of land, well arranged and managed, much more than they used to do. They have a larger amount of food produced which they consume, and consequently the necessity for outlay in the purchase of food is much reduced.

2047. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—And the improvement to which you refer is the re-arrangement of the land?—Yes.

2048. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Just to elucidate this class of improvement to which you refer, might not the re-arranged holding receive extensive improvement through reclamation, which might be effected by the application of lime and seaweed?—Well, that is so, but not to a large extent in the maritime district. The districts which I have included in that map as maritime merely include the townlands abutting upon the sea, except those which are shut off by a small distance from the sea—only the townlands which adjoin or are immediately adjacent to the sea. I consider that people a couple of miles away from the sea are too far away to be fishermen. What I say the Board should do would be to help the maritime population to make their living out of the sea, and to make all that is possible out of the land which they now have, to re-arrange it for them where necessary, and to help them to house themselves in a fairly decent manner.

2049. Mr. O'KEEFE.—What is the number of holdings?—33,710 houses.

2050. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—In this district?—In the maritime district. If you look at the schedule which I put before you, it divides the entire congested districts under three heads, and the map also shows the scheduled inland congested districts from which it is considered a sufficient number of landholders to appreciably relieve congestion would not migrate, that is District B. Take that district in County Donegal—and you will correct me if I am making a rash statement, my lord—I say that very few of the people of Donegal in District B, would leave.

2051. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That is the second section?—The second section. Neither would the people in Mayo; nor would the people in B, there, in Connemara, which are districts not maritime, nor adjacent to the non-congested or open area. In my opinion, a sufficient number of landholders would not migrate from those districts to appreciably relieve the congestion.

2052. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Upon what is that opinion founded?—My knowledge of the people only.

2053. Has any effort been made at all—have they been asked?—No.

2054. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Where would you migrate those people to if they were willing to go?—I would have to get land first before I could offer it.

2055. Supposing you got land to migrate them to in Killybegs. Don't you think the local people in Killybegs would resent their coming in because their own condition, in many cases, is not much better than the condition of those whom you would migrate?—My idea

is that; that if the Board got a grazing ranch in Killa, when the requirements of the small holders were first supplied, irrespective of whether they were inside or outside scheduled districts, that, instead of giving the surplus away to some of tenants or anybody else, the people who have the next claim on it are the landholders who are settled upon uneconomic holdings in the congested districts.

2076 It is the reverse of that that now obtains. I mean to say that you cannot provide in non-congested areas land for the relief of uneconomic holdings. If the Board purchased land in a non-scheduled area, you would put that land on to the congested districts?—That is the law at present. The Board can purchase untenanted land in non-congested as well as in congested areas. There is very little untenanted land, as I will show you later on, within the congested areas, and if relief is to be found for any considerable number of uneconomic holders by migration or enlarged holdings the Board must get that land outside the congested areas. They have purchased in Roscommon a good deal of land within the last eight months in non-congested areas, but the Board are unable under the existing law to enlarge the holding of a small occupier if that small occupier happens to be outside their estate in a non-scheduled area. The result is that we have bought some grass farms outside the congested districts, where immediately adjacent, and, in some cases, adjoining these are extremely poor people, with wretched holdings, and it seems an utter absurdity that the Board should be prevented, and should not get legal power to enlarge the holding of the man who was quite near this area before they migrate men from many miles away who are no more in need of land.

2077 Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And can you operate at all with the new land you have acquired?—In what way?

2078 In doing anything?—It is bought for the benefit of the congested districts, and consequently the Board are obliged to utilise it for the relief of landholders who are within the scheduled areas.

2079 I thought that your point was that you could not cross over the boundary from the congested districts into the non-congested districts?—I am pointing out what I call the absurdity of the law which prevents the Board from enlarging a small holding which happens to be in a non-scheduled district and adjacent to land acquired by the Board.

2080 But you must have a boundary somewhere?—What precisely is the boundary that you mean?

2081 Don't you complain that you have power to buy land in the area which you are not allowed to use for the purpose of adding to a holding?—No.

2082 Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is not this your point, Mr. Deen. You buy an estate in a non-congested area?—Yes.

2083 That is, including grass land?—We would not buy it otherwise.

2084 There may be some small holdings on that estate bought by you. These small holdings you can increase?—Yes.

2085 Outside the margin of your estate there may be a small estate with poor people on it?—Or isolated poor people.

2086 These people may have been evicted from that other land?—They may or may not have been.

2087 They may have a claim on the grass land. Now your point is this, that at present these small holdings on the fringe of an estate bought by the Congested Districts Board outside its own area may not be improved by the Board?—And that fact has given rise to a very strong local objection in the neighbourhood of these untenanted lands that the Board should purchase them.

2088 Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What then can you do with the land at all?—I am talking of the present state of the law—you evidently cannot do anything with the land you have purchased?—Well it is only in a few cases that the state of feeling has got quite so bad as that.

2089 Why don't you bring migrants over to take the land and utilise it?—They are taking up some of these lands.

2090 Is not the result this, that you stereotype a congested character on holdings adjacent to your purchase because they are excluded by the definition?—We cannot enlarge such holdings unless there is surplus land after providing for applicants from scheduled districts. The Estates Commissioners can deal with these cases at once. We have not the power.

2091 Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Of scheduling?—No; not scheduling. Uneconomic landholders, near untenanted land, should be dealt with in the order of priority to that land, and not be passed over simply because their holdings are not in a scheduled district.

2092 The CHAIRMAN.—Does it come to this, that by reason of the fact that you are forced by the present law only to settle people out of congested areas on land that you buy outside the congested areas you are leaving a land of patchwork behind you. You buy an area of untenanted land, and you migrate to it people from the congested areas. Then near by, twenty miles off, you buy a smaller area of untenanted land which you re-divide in the same way. Meanwhile between these two areas are poor uneconomic holdings, which, being outside the congested areas you are unable to touch?—That is so.

2093 Outside those scheduled areas you are not able to touch lands which, as Mr. Connor O'Kelly says, are being stereotyped in their poverty by reason of the fact that they are on either side of the lands that are being utilised for the purposes of improvement?—That is so, when such small holdings are outside the boundary of the Board's estates.

2094 Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Assuming that the law is so framed that you are enabled to improve the uneconomic holdings of tenants in non-congested districts adjacent to grass lands which you purchase will you then have made the path smooth for the migration to the remaining lands of tenants from congested districts? Have you not been fixed, and is it not likely that you would be fixed in future with this difficulty, that the holders of economic holdings in non-congested districts in the neighbourhood of land that you buy will claim that the land should be divided amongst their sons and relatives to the exclusion altogether of people from the congested districts?—That feeling is becoming very general and very strong.

2095 Has there not, in point of fact, arisen the strongest feeling against migration of any sort?—Yes; in some places among those locally interested. But if the Government allow local opposition in one district to determine or regulate the remedial measures to be applied for the benefit of another district or the country generally, little good can be done.

2096 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You do answer Sir Anthony's question in the affirmative?—Yes. There is an extremely strong feeling against what is called the introduction of strangers into some of these untenanted areas.

2097 Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Up to the present time has the Board been able in any case to resist the strong local feeling?—I cannot say that they have. There are three estates acquired where that feeling has been very strong, and the Board have not been able up to the present to dispose of the lands.

2098 And the position is that. You have not in the congested districts sufficient untenanted land to improve up to the economic level more than one-third of the uneconomic holdings which exist?—I will give you the figures.

2099 That is broadly what you say, that provided you were in possession of all the untenanted lands in the congested districts, say in Connemara, you would not be able thereby to relieve more than one-third of the uneconomic holdings situated in the congested districts?—Which would be about all that would migrate. For various reasons, feudal or otherwise, they would not migrate.

2100 That is an important matter, which opens up another line of thought. If so much than one-third would migrate, and if you are able to provide for that one-third in Connemara, what is the use of going to the rest of Ireland for the purpose of purchasing?—I give you the figures.

2101 The CHAIRMAN.—Is Sir Anthony right in

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stating that you said that the untenanted lands in Connought would be sufficient to support one-third of the population of the congested districts?—I will give you the exact figures as prepared by me.*

2102. Mr. O'KELLY.—Sir Antony has spoken about the strong feeling against migration. Is there a single case in which the Board has ever yielded to that feeling?—No; they never yielded to it, but up to the present they haven't overcome it.

2103. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is it a reasonable anticipation, Mr. Doran, that if the Board had legal power to enlarge uneconomic holdings in the neighbourhood of their purchases that this feeling against migration would not be at all so difficult to overcome?—That is my opinion, my lord, and I believe that if the men who influence public opinion in these districts were charged with responsibility in the settlement of this matter they would get the people to take a reasonable and larger view of the situation, to the effect that the persons who have first claim upon any untenanted areas are the heads of families who are already settled upon holdings from which they cannot derive a decent living, and that until their needs are supplied, whether such holdings are inside or outside the scheduled districts, the sons of tenants or any other such persons would not get any land within those areas. If land is to be found for sons of tenants there is plenty of it in the more inland districts of the country.

2104. If you had the power to enlarge the holdings of small occupiers in the neighbourhood of your purchases would not you have all the small men on your side and public opinion as well?—Well, if you don't get the weight of the soundest public opinion on your side you won't succeed.

2105. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I quite agree with that, Mr. Doran, with regard to the purchases we have made up to the present period. The Board have been restrained by the existing state of the law from dealing with uneconomic holdings in the neighbourhood of land which they bought, and raising them to the economic level; but over and above that we have been precluded by local opinion from removing people from the congested districts to the occupancy of that land?—We have.

2106. I only want to bring to the notice of the Commission that there are two things in regard to this matter that have to be considered—in the first place you have not in Connought sufficient land to relieve the congestion of more than one-third of the population, and the next point, that there must be a complete change in the local public opinion before your best efforts will have any measure of success?—That is so.

2107. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would you add to that that the question of migration is such a delicate one to work out that any body promoting migration on a large scale must be composed to a large extent of popular representatives?—Well, it must, at any rate, through some means be in close touch with popular sentiment, and the work carried out in the way that the soundest thinkers consider the most reasonable and the best for the country.

2108. You require an authority to carry out migration that will have a strong local influence and strong local trust?—Yes; that is essential.

2109. And intimate acquaintance with the circumstances of the population?—Yes.

2110. Sir JOHN COLLINS.—I just want to go back to the figures. May I ask you this question?—You divide that scheduled area into two great groups?—Three. "A," the maritime; "B," east of the maritime, a district from which no considerable number of the landholders would be likely to migrate, and "C," the congested districts only in Connought, from which a considerable portion of the landholders would, in my opinion, migrate into the open areas.

2111. As a matter of fact, you gave us in rough figures 64,000 holdings as the number of holdings to be dealt with?—Yes, including holdings over £10 rateable value.

2112. In the scheduled area. Is not that so?—That is so.

2113. Do those 64,000 holdings include the 33,000 and odd holdings that are to seaward on that map?—Yes, such of them as are under £10 rateable value.

2114. It includes them?—Yes.

2115. Now, are I right in taking the effect of your evidence to be that, as far as land operations go, on these 33,000 holdings of the maritime population, that there is neither scope nor possibility of doing very much with the land? Is that right, or would you put it in your own way?—There is practically no land for enlargement of holdings available, and the population could not possibly live upon the land they have. Neither would any considerable number of them, in my opinion, migrate, and my suggestion, therefore, is to stripe the land for them, where it is badly arranged, and do everything you can to enable them to make their living from the sea. My suggestion would cover 33,710 cases. The 33,000 would not be taken from the 64,000, but from the 85,000—from the gross.

2116. That is what I was driving at. That 35,000 is to be taken from the gross of 85,000 odd, and not from the 64,000?—Yes.

2117. I don't think you fully appreciate what the question is to which I desire to get an answer. Anything that can be done with the land of these 33,000 holdings on the seaward side of that black line concerns a very different class, and would involve much less expense to do what is possible to do, than would the measures contemplated for the relief of the congestion of the holdings east of that?—Yes, it is quite a different problem altogether, west of that black line.

2118. One other question. Is not it the case, unfortunately and unhappily, that there is an impression all over Ireland that the land within a district is the heritage and preserve of the people within that district, and they regard anyone coming in on their land from any other part of Ireland as a stranger?—That is the result of taking a wrong view of things.

2119. I am asking you have you observed that yourself, that where anything is to be done in a locality the prevailing idea is that everything in the locality is the particular preserve of the people there, and that a stranger coming in of his own motion, of his own individual initiative, is looked upon as a stranger, and thought to have no business there, and to be encroaching the bread out of the mouth of the people of the locality?—Well, it is a natural feeling, when local requirements do not receive first consideration, for when the local landholders have not sufficient land they don't like outsiders coming in and appropriating all that is available.

2120. Then you have observed that?—Yes.

2121. You have used the word "uneconomic holdings." What am I to take an uneconomic holding to be?—Am I to take it simply as the description of a holding rated at below £10?—Oh, no.

2122. What are the limits, in your mind, of an uneconomic holding—when you use that term how am I to get a standard in my mind?—An uneconomic holding might vary a good deal in size and annual value, according to the circumstances affecting the net value of the produce.

2123. The CHAIRMAN.—It would be better to give us a definition of what you consider to be an economic holding?—A holding from the produce of which under good management a family can maintain themselves.

2124. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—By the holding?—By the holding—a holding on which a family can live in accordance with what may be considered a satisfactory standard for an agricultural labourer, by the application of their labour to the holding. That would be my definition of a minimum economic holding. But a family may live comfortably on an uneconomic holding if, in the vicinity of it, the surplus labour of the family can be remuneratively employed at fishing or industrial work.

2125. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Assuming a family of five people?—Yes, a husband, wife and three children, the children being maintained up to the time they are able to look after themselves, say up to seventeen years.

2126. The CHAIRMAN.—Is that assuming the children put in some labour on the holding?—Yes, but as they should attend school until about fourteen they would not be much help while young.

2127. Practically, then, the labour of one man?—I am also taking the wife into account, because in my economic holding, the wife would be a very important factor, as she would make money out of rearing pigs and fowl.

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2127 The labour of man, woman and child compared?—I would say it would be equal to the labour of one and a half men.

2128 Mr. SUTHERLAND.—An uneconomic holding is one in which there is no money?—I don't quite understand in what sense you mean. Do you mean there is no money to be obtained from it.

2129 Is the holding?—I don't understand.

2130 The term "uneconomic" is new to me, as applied to a holding. I would rather be inclined to think that an uneconomic holding would be one which could be got for nothing?—In theory you might be right, but in practice it is a fact that the more uneconomic a holding is the higher its occupation value. The more uneconomic a holding is in the West of Ireland, the smaller the rent and the poorer the valuation, the higher will be the occupation interest if it goes into the open market. Take a £2 holding. There are so many people with £50 available, or who can get £50 one way or the other, that there would be far better competition for a holding of £2 rent than for one of £5, and the competition for one of £5 will be greater than for one of £10. The tenant's interest in the West often realises thirty years' purchase, of a very small holding, whereas for a £500 farm you might not get five years' purchase for occupation interest.

2131 Sir JOHN COCHRAN.—So that the price, then, is in inverse proportion to the valuation?—Yes. Mr. Sutherland asked if an uneconomic holding was one for which nothing would be given, but in practice the more uneconomic a holding is, the higher will the occupation interest go. I am not saying that that is at all sound, or that it is as it ought to be.

2132 Mr. KAVANAGH.—You say that with regard to the sea-coast population you believe in improving the fishing and the agriculture as being better policy than migration?—In my opinion migration is not a remedy that can be applied for the relief of congestion on the seaboard.

2133 Your remedy is to improve the fishing and agriculture?—Yes, to make the most of the resources of land for those people, who are accustomed to live by the sea; to help them in every way you can in the industry they have some knowledge of; and arrange the land in a way they can make the most out of it. If these home resources are found impossible of profitable development there is nothing for them but to migrate, emigrate, or become migratory labourers like the population of the poor inland districts.

2134 You think migration is almost impossible?—I don't think you would get any appreciable number of the people to migrate.

2135 Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—Just one question arising out of Mr. Kavanagh's question regarding the West maritime population. Is not a fact that in Donegal and in Northern Galway, North-west Galway, the formation is entirely granite?—Yes.

2136 And is it not the fact that cultivation with such a formation is unproductive?—Not near the sea. The granite is not at all a bad base for an agricultural soil.

2137 Is that so?—That is so. But I should say a great deal of Connemara was absolutely deranged of all soil at some time in the history of the world, and you find there now only a deposit of peat on the solid rock, and near the sea a deposit of sand and peat. The sand and peat make a good soil for crops.

2138 I was striving to come to this point whether, having regard to the character of the soil, it is not necessary to pay more attention to the fishing industry than to the agricultural industry?—Oh, yes.

2139 And that the agricultural industry in that part of the congested districts assumes a very subordinate position?—I would look upon the agricultural treatment of that maritime district in the same way as I would look upon providing labourers with cottages and gardens where they can grow vegetables for themselves and their families, and on which they can have a home. They must look to the sea or elsewhere for the living they cannot find on the land.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—I was surprised to hear you say that in that part of the country agriculture could be improved. My opinion was that it

could not be improved, and that therefore migration was the solution, but your opinion is against me?—I would like to make it clear to you that I do not look on the land these men could have as farms in the ordinary sense at all, only merely such land as would enable them to keep a cow to give milk to the family, and to grow sufficient potatoes and other vegetables—potatoes for the family and to feed pigs and fowl. It is surprising what a frugal household can make of fowl. Most of them provide their tea and sugar from the sale of eggs. It is quite a recognized rule that the women of the house must find the money necessary to buy the tea and sugar out of what she makes in that way.

2140 You said agriculture in these districts could be greatly improved?—Yes; that is, speaking of agriculture in the same sense as a labourer's plot, to get the man to make the most of his acre and to grow potatoes and vegetables. These people should make the most of the land they have.

2141 Mr. BARRY.—Do you mean even in a district like Rosswale Bay and Corvella, where there is nothing but granite slabs lying horizontally for miles and miles?—I have not classed all that as maritime.

2142 To the west of Spáidial and Carra and all that region?—Carra is on the sea, but a great deal of that district up to Rosswale, where the sea-coast is greatly indented, and where the open sea is a long distance from the main outline of the coast, you have a long stretch of poor country that I do not class as maritime. The people are too far from the fishing grounds, and the course to the open sea is too intricate to work sailing boats except in favourable weather, and they have to use canoes and other row-boats.

2143 We saw close to Inver, at the very top of one of those long fahets, large boats plying with turf to the Aran Islands?—Yes.

2144 These people could equally as well fish?—I don't think so. A fisherman should be able to go in and out to the fishing ground easily, but from these places he would have to wait very often for days till the wind is favourable. It might be a week after he has his boat loaded that he can sail, but delay in that does not matter so much.

Mr. BARRY.—Well, these are things we can inquire into on the spot, but they did not seem to find any difficulty.

2145 Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In a district like Aranmore, on the Charley estate, would you consider the agricultural holdings of the fishing population a very valuable asset?—Very valuable in Aranmore Island, which the Board have dealt with.

2146 Are you aware that these men have made as much by fishing as any population on the Irish coast?—So I learned when I was dealing with the island.

2147 May I take it from you that a very large population in Kerry and Donegal may reasonably look for an improvement in their present condition otherwise than through the enlargement of their holdings?—Yes; otherwise their condition cannot be substantially improved. I was going to say if you take District B. They can't fish. They won't go into the open areas even if you could get them land there, and you must make the most of the land they have, and help them to develop the land as it is, and also endeavour to establish other industries than fishing.

2148 I think you were going to tell us that even in Mayo something can be done for the people without migration?—A great deal might be done.

2149 The Commissioners might like to know by what industries and improvements of the soil you can improve the position of the population?—The Board's officer dealing with industries will give you his views. With regard to agriculture in maritime District A, the work to be done is chiefly in connection with the re-arrangement of the holdings and helping the people to house themselves better. Unless the fishing can be developed, these people will be for ever poor. I believe there are a great many places where fishing has not been developed by the Board, and where it could be developed. The Board ought to be placed in a position to risk some public money in a thorough and well-considered scheme of development. I believe that if

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the fisheries can be developed, and the lands re-
populated, there could be a comparatively prosperous
population in the maritime districts living by fishing.

2150. Mr. O'KERRY.—Is not it true you have inside
the black line, in many parts of Mayo, a considerable
amount of unencanted and non-mountainal grazing
land which could be made available for your pur-
poses?—No, not in Mayo. The only non-residential
grass lands in Mayo west of that black line are
coloured green. The green with brown stippling is
mountainous land, and the only agricultural land is on
the Mulllet here. All the non-residential holdings in
Mayo of £25 poor low valuation or upwards are
coloured green on the map.

2151. I was merely referring to some place I knew,
and particularly I had Erris in my mind. Then my
description of Erris would be accurate?—Yes.

2152. By acquiring that land in addition to develop-
ing the fishing industry, an immense amount of
good could be done?—Most certainly.

2153. In fact it would transform the lives of the
people there?—I think so.

2154. Mr. BAYCE.—There was one question I wished
to ask with regard to these 33,710 maritime holdings
which you, in answer to Sir John Colomb, said were
to be deducted from the 84,938. But as a matter of
fact ought not they be deducted from the 74,415, and
even from the 45,000 holdings?—Oh, no.

2155. Because they will all be of a very small
valuation?—The classification I give you includes
the entire congested districts without regard to what was
said or unsaid.

2156. I am talking of the classification of economic
and uneconomic. You said that of the 85,000 hold-
ings, 74,000 were uneconomic?—Yes, that is below £20
rateable value.

2157. Now I put to you are not these 33,000 mari-
time holdings all uneconomic?—Not all.

2158. But they are nearly all?—Yes.

2159. And most of them would come out of the
45,130, which you said would not exceed £4 valua-
tion?—Most of them would.

2160. Well, if that was so, then the number of
holdings under £4 left would not be very large?—No.

2161. Can you give us the classification of the
33,000?—I cannot at present.

2162. You cannot say how many are not exceeding
£4?—I cannot say offhand.

2163. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You said there were
74,000 holdings under £10 poor low valuation,
and you say that 64,000 holdings are not yet sold.
There is no connection between the two statements.
To make this clear, I will repeat shortly the facts and
figures I gave. The congested districts coloured blue
on that map (indicated on map), cover the whole area
over which the Congested Districts Board had special
functions to discharge. The total number of holdings
in the congested districts is about 84,062. The total
poor low valuation of these holdings is £222,961. Now,
of that 84,062 holdings 74,415 holdings have a rate-
able value of £10 and under. The remainder have a
rateable value of over £10, and may be looked upon as
not needing the special attention of the Board. Of
the 74,415 which are under £10, 45,130, with a poor
low valuation of £108,468 are at a rateable value of
£4 and under. These are the very poor cases.

2164. Over £10 valuation, as I understand, can
take care of themselves?—Yes.

2165. And there are 74,000 under £10 which cannot
take care of themselves, and you have got to try to
take care of them. Now, 13,000 have been sold. Sir
Anthony MacDonnell asked me to find out from the
Land Commission how many holdings were sold in the
congested districts, and I have given you the figures I
got this morning, from which it appears that over
13,000 holdings in the congested districts have been
sold through the Land Commission.

2166. Outside the Congested Districts Board?—Sold
through the Land Commission and including the Con-
gested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners'
cases. Take the 13,000 holdings from the total of
84,938, that is from all the holdings in the congested
districts, because I am not able to tell you how many

of these 13,000 holdings are under £10 or over £10, as
you must take that number from the gross if you want
to find the number of holdings not yet sold in the
congested districts.

2167. I only wanted to get how there are 74,000
holdings not yet sold?—Deduct from the total number
of holdings (taken at 84,938), 13,000 sold through the
Land Commission, plus 6,000 which the Board have
purchased and have at present in hands, and you get
Lord Dudley's figure of 64,000, which is approximately
correct.

2168. Does that 64,000 include any of the holdings
over £10 valuation?—It does; the 64,000 holdings are
over the entire congested districts.

2169. We have not got to deal with the 64,000. We
have got to deal with that part under £10?—Yes; I
suggest that if you take 12 per cent. all you would
get approximately the number of holdings under £20
rateable value.

2170. Mr. BAYCE.—With regard to the figure of
33,710, the total number of houses in the maritime
districts, and the classification according to poor low
valuation, it would be interesting to get the figures,
so that we could see how many we had with a valua-
tion under £4 compared with the total valuation of
the electoral division?—I will prepare that return.

2171. It would be about 45 average valuation?—
Well, the average may be misleading. A few large
farms among the small ones in an electoral division or
other district would raise the average rate in a way
that would be misleading for purposes of comparison.

2172. In these maritime districts are there many
large farms?—No, indeed.

2173. Practically the whole of them come under
those who are under £4?—I did not go into that in
that way.

2174. Have you got the figures—can you get them?
—I could get them for to-morrow morning.

2175. The CHAIRMAN.—I want to ask you a ques-
tion about the District marked A. What you have
told us practically amounts to this, you do not regard
the country lying in the maritime districts as being
capable of ever being put into a condition where it
would support a family, from the land alone, I
mean?—Certainly not.

2176. That is hopeless, and, therefore, the people
now having land in that district—if they are to re-
main in that district—must look to fishing, and the
creation of industries?—Yes.

2177. You say you think that they can be very
much developed. Have you studied that question of
their development?—I am not competent to give
evidence on industrial development, and have merely
expressed my opinions as to the necessity for the de-
velopment of fishing and other industries in connection
with the settlement of the land in the very poor and
remote districts. The present population cannot live
from the land alone. I believe the fishing could be
developed, and possibly other industries established.

2178. When you say fishing can be developed, the
wish is father to the thought?—That is so, but I am
hopeful.

2179. You really are not in a position to know any-
thing about it?—I don't pretend to know.

2180. You say there are 171,000 persons living
there?—In the maritime districts there are about
33,000 holdings.

2181. I have the figure, 171,133 people?—The cor-
rect figure is 174,961.

2182. Sir JOHN COLSON.—I have also got 171,133?
—I must have given it wrongly. The population of
the maritime districts marked A on the map is 174,961.
The Poor Law Valuation of these maritime districts
is £178,146.

2183. The CHAIRMAN. There is little difference be-
tween the figures. We take it that the correct figure
is 174,961?—You may take it in round numbers at
175,000.

2184. In your opinion the great majority of these
people must live by fishing or some other industry?—
Fishing, kelp, and the land—these are the three re-
sources they can look to.

2185. Mr. RUTHERFORD tells me that in the whole
of Scotland 80,000 people live by fishing. Consider-
ing the very good fishing grounds along the Scottish

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quest and the great perfection to which the Scottish fishing industry has been brought, do you think that if there are only 30,000 people living in Scotland by fishing it is possible to employ 175,000 persons in fishing in the West of Ireland, more than double the number?—

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Do these 30,000 people run the boats.

2185. The CHAIRMAN.—These 175,000 are the population of one portion of Ireland only, the western maritime district, and the population is very much larger than the fishing population of the whole of Scotland?—My opinion on that point would be of no value. I do not know the circumstances of the Scotch fishermen, and I know practically nothing of sea fishing. If the Board's Inspector of Fishing tells you there is no hope of these people deriving a living from fishing, and I state they cannot live from the land alone, then some other means of earning must be found for them if they are to remain there. The alternatives are emigration, migration, or to become migratory labourers.

2186. I wish to make the previous statement clear. If you divide 175,000 by five, which is the number of people you roughly allow for a family, you get 35,000 heads of families?—The number of households in the return is 35,710.

2187. And this is the number who, it is suggested, have got to look to fishing as their main source of living. It seems to me that if only 30,000 people live in the whole of Scotland by fishing, that the development you suggest is a big task to attempt?—On that part of the subject Mr. Green and Mr. Duthie will give you an opinion that may be valuable.

2188. You have told Sir Anthony MacDonnell that there is a great difficulty in carrying out migration because of two reasons: one that there was a strong local feeling; and the other that the people would not go. The local people wish to get the land themselves?—Only a small proportion of the landholders in the congested districts were willing to migrate up to the present, and, for this reason, when we provide land and proceed to select migrants, we have practically no range of selection, there are so few who will take holdings in exchange for those they occupy. This arises mainly from the fact that nearly all the people desire to live in the old home, no matter how badly circumstanced they are. I attribute this to want of education and the absence of sufficient capital. They don't seem to object to go to America, and yet they will object to go fifteen miles. To them there is a great difference between their present holding of a few acres held at a rent of 5s. a year and the holding offered of, say, twenty-five acres, subject to a rental of £15, which is some fifteen miles away. Not having sufficient capital, or experience in the management of a large holding, the man is very doubtful about the venture, and this is one of the reasons why there is no general desire to move to a better holding. Again, the head of the family resident on a farm in the congested areas in a great many cases, is a man of advanced years, say fifty or sixty, and if he were to move it would be for the benefit of the son who is to succeed him rather than himself, and you don't find a large proportion of these men prepared to undertake the venture of leaving their old associations and neighbours, and going to a new district, amongst sea neighbours. On the other hand I should like to remind the Commission that the Board have been able to dispose of all the unencumbered land they could get up to the passing of the Land Act of 1903. We have not got the class of migrants on all the holdings that we should have if we had had more applicants to choose from; but it is satisfactory to be able to state that not one has failed to pay his way.

2189. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—How many of these migrants are there?—About 380.

2190. The CHAIRMAN.—The two difficulties are—first only a small proportion of the people in your experience are willing to move?—That is the case at present.

2191. And, secondly, there is a strong local feeling against them when they do go in the place to which they move?—In some places.

2192. Not universal? Have you found places where they are welcome?—That is so only where there is no population, or a sparse population.

2193. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That is not a congested district?—I mean where there is only a very limited population in the immediate neighbourhood of the lands.

2194. The CHAIRMAN.—Now, you find only a small proportion of the people will move. When you say this you are speaking of individuals?—I mean that comparatively few are prepared to move. Only a very small proportion of the people in the congested districts seem anxious to move to better holdings. I have frequently spoken to people in the districts marked on the map A and B, and suggested to them that they should move to better holdings inland, but they did not seem to like the idea. If they could be offered a fully-equipped holding and a grant of capital to stock the land, like the unencumbered tenants, many of them would migrate.

2195. Have you ever thought it would be possible, wherever the desire to move was not strong, to try to move a little community?—We were always ready if they would go.

2196. Have you ever tried to find out what their feelings would be if you tried to move a little community of, say, several families who had been in the habit of living near each other?—In all cases where intending migrants expressed a desire to get new holdings adjoining or adjacent to each other we met their wishes. We have done that in a small way when several neighbours go to the same estate. Our operations have not been sufficiently extensive to enable us to move the tenants of a whole townland in that way at one time.

2197. Do you think they would be more ready to go if you were in a position to move several families at the same time, and put them down together?—I think that in the course of a few years the objection to move will disappear, especially if the people who were provided with new holdings are successful, and I have every hope they will succeed. I look upon the objection to migrate as temporary.

2198. You think that in a few years' time it will be quite possible to have something like a selection of individuals, to move them without difficulty as required, as you obtain land for them elsewhere?—Yes.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You were speaking of only one part of the districts under the Board.

2199. The CHAIRMAN.—I am speaking generally?—There are some conditions which apply only to the maritime district; others only apply to the parts marked on the map C; others to B. I am anticipating a change of feeling likely to prevail in ten years or so.

2200. Why do you say people in A or B rather than people in other districts?—I think it would be well to give you the particulars of A, B, and C on the map, and in the return relating to them,* as I intended to do at first, so that you may have the special features of each of those divisions before you. There are three groups or classes in my division of the congested area. Group A, you have gone into. It is the maritime district. I will repeat the figures. The number of households in Group A is 35,710; the population 174,060; and the poor law valuation £178,130. Group B—mainly in Donegal, Kerry and Cork—includes districts from which it is considered a sufficient number of landholders to appreciably relieve congestion would not migrate. The number of households is 23,002; the population 122,619; and the poor law valuation £164,122. In group C are the scheduled districts from which it is considered a sufficient number of landholders to appreciably relieve congestion would migrate. The number of households is 42,802; the population, 207,944; and the poor law valuation is £260,781. These three groups include all the area of the congested districts, and you will find that the gross totals work out—Number of households, 101,514; population, 506,723; poor law valuation, £579,043. In respect to the total of 100,114 households, I had already given you a total of 84,068 as agricultural holdings. The difference between these two figures is made up of households who are not landholders. As regards migration, there are in group C some 42,000 families all in Connacht. Outside Connacht there is practically no land adjacent and available for the relief of congested areas. It is my opinion that from Kerry, as from Donegal and Cork, a sufficient number of people would not migrate to where land could be found for them, and there are no grass areas convenient to the scheduled areas, as there are in Connacht. The

* Table III. See p. 329.

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Connought problem is, therefore, a special one. You have the non-residential grass land adjacent to the congested population of the inland congested areas.

2201. I want to take you back to where you were just now. In a few years' time you said there will be more disposition to migrate on the part of individuals, and I understood your opinion applies merely to the districts marked C1—What I said is intended to apply more particularly to group C. But if that disposition to migrate does increase in group C I have no doubt it will very quickly reach the people in group B, and eventually it may reach group A.

2202. Is the reason for your opinion merely because the lands available for the purpose of migration are nearer to the people residing in group C than in groups A and B?—That is so. A great part of group C is pretty much the same class of land as the non-residential grass farms, but of very inferior quality. Many of these small holders, especially in Mayo and Roscommon, have been in the habit of sending stock to graze on these grass farms. They have knowledge of these lands, and it is not much of a move to go away ten miles to land much of the same character but better than that which they are living upon.

2203. That applies only to group C?—Yes, only to group C.

2204. Do you really think that for many years to come, whether there be land available or not, even if you had the land, you will find the greatest difficulty in removing or migrating people from the districts A and B?—We will have difficulty in removing a sufficient number to appreciably relieve the congestion of those who would remain. I don't say no one would go. But the district from which it will be possible to suggest any large numbers will be group C.

2205. But at any time could you look forward to removing people from districts A or B under conditions which might be pleasing to them, to places where they might still live amongst their families?—I think I can say we attempted to do this. The Board had notices posted all over the congested districts describing the lands they had available for migration, and inviting people willing to remove to make application to them for these holdings. We issued two such posters, with a list giving the estate, county, union, electoral division, and area of the lands. The first poster was—

"The Board are prepared to exchange parcels of these lands, with or without dwelling-houses thereon, for lands within or adjacent to congested districts suitable for the enlargement of small holdings in such congested district. To this end the Board are prepared to enter into negotiations with the owners or tenant purchasers of areas of grass lands within or adjacent to congested districts, and to give in exchange for such lands more valuable holdings in non-congested districts on such terms as may be arranged or less valuable holdings supplemented by cash payments. The above proposals have reference more particularly to large farms, but the Board are also prepared to enter into negotiations with owners or tenant purchasers for the surrender of holdings of not less than £10 rateable value in or near a congested district, and to give in exchange thereon, on such terms as may be arranged, more valuable holdings in non-congested districts. Applications from persons who are not landholders cannot be entertained unless there happens to be a surplus of land on hands after meeting the demands of the eligible applicants as above and which cannot be utilised for the benefit of the congested districts."

This was inserted in some newspapers and posted all over the Board's estates, and in effect it was an invitation to all occupiers of holdings of £10 rateable value or upwards to apply for new holdings, and they were informed they would get much better holdings. The Board's object was to induce large holders to leave the congested districts, as they were better able by their means and experience to take up the new farms. Their migration from the large holdings would leave more land available to help to enlarge the holdings of the adjacent small occupiers.

2206. That applies to individuals?—There was nothing to prevent a number migrating together. Groups of families could have agreed to go together.

2207. Is there land sufficient for that operation?—We invited them to come to the land acquired. Nothing could be freer or more open. Yet the result was not satisfactory.

2208. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—What was the actual result?—We selected migrants from our own estates. The most substantial men, who were willing to go.

2209. Have you any more applications?—No; we got rid of all the land we had up to the passing of the Act of 1903, except some retained for special reasons.

2210. Mr. BENCE.—Were there many applications under the poster?—Yes.

2211. You did not have to go to try to persuade your own tenants?—We advise them to migrate, and explain the advantages, but we do not urge them, as we think there would be considerable risk in doing so. They are perfectly free to do what they like themselves.

2212. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—When did you issue that poster?—It was issued about eighteen months ago.

2213. Since the Act of 1903?—Yes.

2214. The CHAIRMAN.—How many applications did you get in response to that poster?—Comparatively few; but one of the immediate results of this poster was that persons from the neighbourhood of these grass areas which were in the non-congested district petitioned the Board to give the land to small holders and some of tenants in the neighbourhood, and in some cases threatened that if "strangers" were placed on the lands there would be serious trouble.

2215. Sir FRANCIS MORRIS.—Would the majority of the people understand a notice of this sort—the meaning of such a notice?—Oh, yes. They are very sharp in these matters.

2216. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you know if any of the applications you got came in from A or B, or were they all from C?—We have them all registered.

2217. Did some come from A or B, or were they all from C?—All from C.

2218. You got no applications from A or B?—No.

2219. The posters were put up in the district?—Yes, on the Board's estates.

2220. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is the result that no persons migrated?—We have disposed of some of these grass farms to tenants on the Board's estates. Here is another notice—would you like to hear it read?

2221. The CHAIRMAN.—Certainly?—Another form of invitation was issued to them as follows:—

"Applications are hereby invited for new holdings in the above estate from landholders in congested districts who are prepared to surrender their present holdings for the purpose of enlarging adjacent small holdings. Tenant purchasers (present proprietors) in congested districts who have bought their holdings under the Land Purchase Acts are eligible applicants. Applications from landholders on any of the Board's estates in congested districts will receive special consideration. Applications from landholders, other than present proprietors in congested districts, outside the Board's estates, should be accompanied by a letter from the landlord or his agent agreeing to permit the proposed migrant to sell his interest in his holding in one or more parcels as enlargements to the holdings of adjoining tenants on the same estate. The partitioning of the holdings and of the rest thereof would be undertaken by the Board, subject to the approval of the landlord or his agent, but the Board must be satisfied that the vacated land is utilised for the enlargement of adjacent holdings. The points to be considered in the selection as between applicants will include the value of the holding to be surrendered. Persons who agree to migrate and surrender holdings, with a poor law valuation of £10 or upwards, will get much better holdings in exchange on reasonable terms. Applications from persons who are not landholders cannot be entertained unless there happens to be a surplus of lands on hands after meeting the demands of the eligible applicants as above, and which cannot be utilised for the benefit of the congested districts."

These two posters were posted extensively. The last one I have read—was one naming the particular estates on which the lands were, and was posted in the neighbourhood of that estate when it happened to be in the congested districts, and the other one referring to several estates was posted extensively over the congested districts of Connought.

Sept. 12, 1906.

Mr. R.
Dennis.

2222. You say that there was a good deal of bad feeling shown with regard to these things—you were told by the people living round the lands that if strangers came they would be unpleasant.—I—Yes.

2223. Is the ill-feeling due to the fact that hitherto the grass lands—untenanted lands—that you have purchased have not been large enough to satisfy the local claims, and also to give you surplus land to which people from the congested districts might be migrated?—I believe that if the Board had power to buy large areas, such as those I have mapped in Roscommon, they should first satisfy the requirements of the uneconomic holders adjacent to these lands, and, having done that, there would be a large surplus to be used for the benefit of landholders migrated from congested districts; and if the local people understood that it was not within the power of the Board or of the Estates Commissioners to give holdings to young people in these areas, the objection to strangers would subside. It was the Land Act of 1903 that originated it; because that Act gave the Estates Commissioners power to plant young men on holdings—a most excellent and desirable thing without doubt; but my point is that, considering the area of grass land adjacent to the congested districts, or within the counties containing congested districts is insufficient to raise the uneconomic holdings in these counties to an economic standard, it should be reserved exclusively for these small landholders.

2224. As you have not hitherto been in a position to obtain lands to such an extent as would satisfy the local claims as well as provide for migrants, is it fair to say that migration has failed or that migration would fail owing to local ill-feeling?—I don't believe it would. Even this inquiry, and the discussion which, no doubt, will result from it, may create such a change of feeling that a much more reasonable view may be generally taken.

2225. I think I have only one more question. You have told us your view about an uneconomic holding. Taking the estates which the Board have already purchased and improved, and resold, can you say that all, or a very large proportion of the holdings sold to the tenants, are now economic?—No, only a very small proportion, because we could not get sufficient land.

2226. Then, although you purchased a considerable number of estates, and although you spent a considerable amount of money in improving them, yet because sufficient land was not obtained, the result is that after all your labours and after all the money that has been spent, only a very small proportion of the holdings are economic?—That is so. It appears to be the general belief that the Board were dealing with estates for the last fourteen years. I wish to make it clear that up to the year 1896 the Board had no money available to buy estates except their own funds, and in the face of great difficulties—which I have enumerated in my memorandum—they bought three estates as an experiment. The results were so satisfactory they concluded that the purchase and treatment of poor estates was one of the most effective means to be employed to improve the condition of landholders in the congested districts. Consequently they pressed for more power and funds, and under the Act of 1896 they got power to purchase estates by means of an advance of Land Stock, in the same way as an ordinary tenant-purchaser would get such an advance. For the first two years after the passing of the Act of 1896 they practically bought no estates, and between 1896 and 1903 they only got forty-three estates. These, with the three estates they purchased with their own funds previous to 1896, made up the forty-six estates purchased prior to the passing of the Act of 1903. Well, most of these estates consisted of small, poor tenanted holdings, and the Board had no means to get any considerable area of untenanted land for the enlargement of holdings. They improved the estates mainly by drainage, road-making, striping, and in getting the people to improve their houses. By that treatment alone these estates have been greatly enhanced in value, and the condition of the people has been very much improved through giving to each tenant his share of the land in the most convenient manner, and providing the necessary road accommodation. And then the stimulus arising from the ownership of their holdings under favourable conditions has resulted in the people turning most earnestly to the improvement of their lands, with the result that on

the Dallen Estate (which I refer to because it is the largest one bought), on which the Board, as I told you yesterday, expended over £50,000 on land improvements. I think it is no exaggeration to say that since that estate was purchased by the Board the tenants themselves have carried out more improvements in those five years than in the forty preceding years. They really have changed the whole face of the country. They are, however, an exceptionally industrious people, and since they purchased their holdings they are working systematically at the improvement of their lands.

2227. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Does it come to this; that many of the holdings sold to tenants on the Dallen Estate not to-day economic will probably be economic within the course of the next five years?—That is quite true. I will give you some figures bearing on that from a memorandum of mine.

2228. Sir ANTHONY MACDONOVAN.—I would like to ask you some further questions in regard to grass lands. You state in your Memorandum,* that the total area of non-residential grass land in Mayo is 156,671 acres—is all that available for a price—can it be purchased?—No. There is very little untenanted land in Mayo at all in the correct application of the word "untenanted." I understand untenanted land to be land which the owner in fee has let temporarily under a grazing or apportionment letting. There is very little of such land in Mayo, and if only that class of land is sought for to relieve congestion it would not be worth while troubling about it, there is so little of it.

2229. Very good. Then, in your opinion, what are these 156,671 acres?—These acres are in the hands of occupiers who do not reside upon them. The figures are got in this way, I had better explain. On my going into the matter I found there was very little untenanted land in Mayo, and therefore if land was to be looked to as the means of relieving congestion, I had to consider what proposal I could put before the Commission—or before my own Board before the Commission was thought of. There are a great many grazing farms throughout the County of Mayo. Some of these are held under judicial tenancies; others are held by the landlord—the owner in fee; others are held by tenant-purchasers; others are held by farmers who reside elsewhere, and manage these lands in connection with their home farms; others are held by merchants who made money in towns, and who, not having enough to do at their business, devote their spare time to the management of grass farms.

2230. Then a comparatively small portion of this large acreage is available?—Very little of it—some of it has already been sold.

2231. All that remains to be sold and all that presumably the Board could obtain for a price is a comparatively limited area?—Very small.

2232. How would you propose—if you have looked upon this area as a means of relieving congestion—to get hold of the land?—You cannot acquire much unless the Board get compulsory powers.

2233. Would you apply your compulsory powers to the land which is in the hands of tenant-purchasers?—Certainly. I do not see they have any more claim to be exempt from compulsory purchase than the owner in fee who has got no advance from the State.

2234. But they held it under the operation of the Land Purchase Act?—That is because the Government did not look after this matter in time. They let these lands go.

2235. Some of this land is split up in small holdings, I suppose?—I have not included any tenement under £25 poor low valuation. That might be too small a limit, but it is only a question of the way of putting it to the Board or Commission.

2236. We may assume that in the County Mayo you cannot get hold of this land for a price otherwise than by compulsory purchase—you cannot get the area you want, and in the way you want it, to a substantial extent?—No.

2237. Then, say, in five or ten years, could you get by means of voluntary agreement a substantial quantity?—You could never manage it voluntarily because you ought to have the lands in hands before you buy the poor tenanted estates. It would be a mistake, as I have often pointed out to the Board, they ought

* See p. 217.

Sept. 22, 1906.

Mr H.
Borah.

to be in a position to secure the remedy before they took the patent in hands.

2232. You think that in the County Mayo the provision of watered land in sufficient quantity within a moderate period of time is impracticable otherwise than by special measures of compulsion?—I think so.

2233. Now, let us come to Roscommon—does the same conclusion hold good?—Yes.

2234. I understand that large grazing tracts are still in the hands of the landlords?—No. Would you like me to explain generally?

2241. Have landlords largely sold in Roscommon under the operation of the Land Purchase Act?—Not largely sold, but a good many of the grass farms are sold, and under the Act of 1903 I believe most of them would have been sold only for that provision in the Act, which prevented an advance exceeding £500 being made to a tenant whose tenancy was created after 1 January, 1901.

2242. What proportion of the 101,000 acres of grass lands in Roscommon still remains to the landlord, and how much has been sold?—I cannot give a satisfactory reply to that question. I did not think it prudent to make close inquiries about the tenure. Of the 101,000 acres, as far as my inquiries have gone, I find that about 4,000 acres are held by tenant purchasers, but I was only able to ascertain the tenure of 42,000 acres out of the 101,000 acres.

2244. The CHAIRMAN.—In Roscommon?—Yes.

2245. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Could you say, roughly, how much of the 101,000 acres has passed away and how much remains on hands still?—I would say it would not be a large proportion—say six to ten thousand acres.

2246. What balance still remains in the landlords' hands?—Not much in his hands. Most of it is held under yearly and judicial tenancies. There is very little of it held in temporary lettings—what would be correctly described as untenanted land.

2247. If you were able to buy the landlords' interest of this large tract of land before you could deal with it in relief of congestion it would be necessary to buy out the tenants' interest?—Yes.

2248. Where there was a tenant in occupation you would have to buy the occupier out—where the land was in the landlord's own hands you have only one person to deal with, but where the land was held under tenancy you have two persons, and you would need power to deal with them both?—Yes.

2249. Have you power to deal with the occupation tenant otherwise than by simple agreement?—When estates are purchased by the Board the Board have power under the Act of 1905 to compulsorily determine a judicial tenancy if they require the land for migration purposes. That is the only power we have, except in the case of a future tenancy.

2250. On payment of compensation?—Yes, or offering a holding elsewhere. I am assuming in my proposals that a just and fair price should be given to all persons interested.

2251. You say you cannot get sufficient lands in Roscommon by agreement with the landlords—do you say that compulsory powers are necessary?—Well, we are a long time looking for the land, and have not been able to get much.

2252. When I said compensation I meant the equivalent of the tenant's interest?—If a tract of land is in the owner's hands he is entitled to be paid a higher price for it than if it were tenanted. If a tract of land is held by a tenant who pays rent to the owner in for you must deal with the tenant separately.

2253. The CHAIRMAN.—When you compulsorily determine a judicial tenancy because you want the land for migration purposes you are obliged to pay compensation, you say. Have you to give anything beyond the price of the tenant's interest—do you have to give compensation for disturbance?—Yes, and for improvements, or give a holding of equivalent value. The Board could only do this on estates where they are the landlords. They could not determine a tenancy on property they were not the owners of.

Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—There being two interests—the tenant's and the landlord's—would not increase the total sum payable for the land?—It is only a ques-

tion of how much to the tenant and how much to the landlord. It ought not to increase it.

2254. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Let me put it this way—Here is an estate from which the landlord gets £2,000 rental—judicial tenancies. You settle with the landlord; for the number of years' purchase you will give him, say, 20. Having paid the landlord 50 years' purchase—£50,000—you then approach the judicial tenants, and you must buy them out?—Yes, if they are judicial tenants.

2255. And the price that they will accept from you is a matter of agreement between them and you?—It is under the existing law.

2256. And that price is to be added to your total expenditure before you can deal with the estate free from all incumbrances?—Yes.

2257. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Is the price paid to the landlord the same whether it belongs to him or is in the hands of a judicial tenant?—No.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—He gets more if there is no tenant. If a tract of land is subject to a tenancy under a judicial tenure it means in effect that as long as the tenant pays the rent fixed from time to time by the Land Commission or some similar authority that that tenant and his successors have a right to occupation in perpetuity subject to the payment of a fair rent. In other words, you may compare it to a lease for ever subject to a rent which may be varied every fifteen years.

2258. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Does the existence of such a lease reduce the amount payable to the landlord?—What the landlord has for sale is the reversion or rent which the tenant pays him. He cannot give you possession of the land—he could not get it himself. All he can sell to you is the right of getting the judicial rent payable then and subject to variation in the future. If, on the other hand, he has that land without any tenancy in it he can give you clear possession. Consequently the two interests are then vested in the landlord—he has the fee simple of the land vested in him, and he has the land in his own occupation. Put the case in another way—as Sir Anthony MacDonnell was suggesting. If you wanted to get possession of tenanted land, and that you had no compulsory powers to fix a price, you would have to go to the tenant and ascertain how much he would take from you in order that you might become the occupier in perpetuity, and then you would go to the landlord, and say—“What will you sell the fee simple for, subject to the existing tenancy?”

2259. Suppose the landlord agreed to accept twenty years' purchase, as Sir Anthony suggests?—You should then settle with the tenant for his occupation interest, including improvements effected by him, because the rent which he pays is exempt from those improvements. If the landlord had the tract of land in his own hands—without any tenancy—you ought to give him, in my opinion, just the same price as if you had to pay the landlord and tenant separately in dealing separately with the two interests.

2260. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Taking Roscommon as an illustration—there is about 100,000 acres of grazing land suitable for being turned into arable land, and as a means of carrying out migration from congested areas—that is so?—Yes.

2261. Now, I understand this land is variously held?—Yes.

2262. And, therefore, in advocating the principle of compulsion, it is compulsion not merely in order to carry out that scheme as against the landlord—it is not merely the landlord, but there is a variety of classes that would be—well, I do not use it in an offensive way—victims of compulsion?—Yes.

2263. It is not merely a question of compulsion for landlords in fee, but it is a question for judicial tenants; it is a question for the grazier, pure and simple; it is a question for shopkeepers, and it is a general question, in fact, concerning the personal and vital interests of many classes in Ireland—as not that so?—That is so. All parties having a legal interest in the lands should be obliged to sell on equitable terms. Any intervening interest which prevents the Board from utilizing the grass areas for the benefit of the uneconomic landlords, who are admitted to be in such urgent need of it in the congested districts, should be dealt with, and the ordinary landlord would not be singled out to more than anyone else who holds the way.

2264. I am taking a question of national policy for a national purpose—the relief of congestion. I am applying that to Mayo and Roscommon. If it extend

be applied without compulsion, and if the national policy is to apply compulsion, then it hits almost every class, including the tenants who are to get the land. Is not that so?—Yes. That ought to weaken the main objection to compulsion, for it affords some proof that it would not be advocated only that the condition of the people whom it is proposed to relieve is so bad, and so grave from a national point of view, that no matter who has the land he should be required to give it up, on receiving fair compensation. It strengthens the justification for compulsion when it is not applied to any particular class, but to all interests intervening between the possession of the land and the poor people who need it.

2295. In your opinion, no matter what may be the effect of it in disturbing the economic position in other parts of Ireland, the relief of compulsion is so necessary as to override the objection?—It would more than justify an extreme course. That district (pointing to the map) ought to be coloured black instead of blue. It is the cradle of all the trouble in Ireland since the Famine. But no Government up to the present moment has made any serious effort to put it right. The feeble efforts of the Congested Districts Board are not worth talking about; they have barely touched the surface of the problem. They never get the means of applying the drastic and generous treatment which is necessary for a cure.

2296. That is your general opinion. But you stated clearly the danger that if the opinion were to prevail on the governing power, and if that policy were to be applied, it would hit all classes in disturbing the economic equilibrium that exists?—Of course, that is a matter of opinion. My own opinion is that from an economic point of view it would be a most beneficial change, because these grass lands are not yielding the wealth to the country that they would if occupied by farmers. The Roscommon grazier does not spend a shilling he can avoid in labour or upkeep. He would not pay a few shillings to put up a gate while he could stock a bush in the gap. He would not pay a man to cut the thistles, and many of them do not visit the farm for months unless they heard a heifer was sick or dying. I could drive you over districts for twenty miles in Roscommon where you would hear no sound but the lowing of a bullock. It is a wilderness, worse than Connemara.

2297. You are influenced by the opinion that the people in Roscommon are not the best of agriculturalists?—The graziers are not agriculturalists.

2298. You are influenced by that?—Yes. It strengthens my case to be able to put it to you that the land as at present used by the men who hold it is yielding very little profit to them or wealth to the country. These men are making little or nothing out of it of late years, owing to the great fluctuation in the value of store cattle. Many of them are on the verge of bankruptcy. It is no advantage to them to hold on. It would be a benefit to them to get some money, and clear out.

2299. Then it goes a little further than I thought, and the advocacy of compulsion is not merely for the purpose of relieving congestion in Roscommon and other places, but to get rid of people who put bushes instead of gates, and misuse the land?—If you put it in that way I won't object. I think men should not be allowed to hold large areas of land urgently needed by other sections of the community if they don't make reasonable use of it from a wealth-producing point of view.

Sir ANTHONY MCDONNELL.—If there had not been the force and the motive power from behind suggested by this great congested area, would you propose compulsion for the sake of improving the condition of things in Roscommon alone? If it were not for the necessity for relieving congestion in Mayo?—It is hardly fair, Sir Anthony, to carry me on to that now. I don't know what I would propose if there was not a surplus population to plant upon the land. I am only thinking of the problem of redistribution in connection with the relief of the congested areas, whether inside or outside the scheduled districts.

2300. Mr. O'KELLY.—Suppose you were confined to those lands held under the eleven months system would your operations have the most infinitesimal effect upon the problem?—I don't think it would be worth getting compulsory powers to purchase if they only applied to untenanted land—that is land held under temporary lettings or in owners' hands.

2301. Am I correct in assuming that three-fourths of the non-residential land is held on the twelve

months' system and judicial leases?—Of the tenancies classed as permanent tenancy in return handed in,* a great many are what are called future tenancies—that is, tenancies commenced since 1881; but although they are yearly tenancies, they cannot be determined without payment of compensation. But the compensation the future tenant is entitled to receive would be very much less than what a tenant holding under a judicial tenure would be entitled to get.

2302. I suppose there have been evicted tenants on some of the estates you purchased?—There were a few; where the holdings were not permanently disposed of we always reinstated them and set them up again.

2303. In creating the new holdings what provision do you make for the evicted tenants?—We made no special provision for the evicted tenants. The Board don't consider that that is one of the functions they have to deal with specially.

2304. Would not you fancy that an evicted tenant on one of these estates would have a prior claim over a migrant?—You mean that suppose the tenant had been evicted from an estate which the Board had bought, and his holding had been disposed of?

2305. I assume that in some of the estates you purchased you have untenanted grass land. Now in distributing the grass lands, in what order do you put the tenant who had been evicted from that property?—Except in five or six cases we did not provide new holdings for evicted tenants. But where there was an evicted holding on an estate purchased by the Board they reinstated the evicted tenant, and gave him the same assistance to start anew as was extended to other poor tenants.

2306. The CHAIRMAN.—I don't understand the operation. You say where there was an evicted tenancy which had not been disposed of?—Yes. I will give you a case in point. Before the Board bought the De Freyne Estate, Lord De Freyne had evicted fifteen tenants. Their holdings were under the care of what are called emergency men. The evicted tenants were still residing on the estate, and the Board reinstated each tenant in his old holding, gave him a loan to stock his land, and a grant to improve his house.

2307. Mr. O'KELLY.—Suppose a tenant were evicted fifteen or eighteen years ago, and that his holding had passed into the hands of a neighbouring tenant?—Yes. The neighbouring tenant when we got the property continues to have both holdings.

2308. But what I mean is if the evicted tenant lives in the neighbourhood, when you have grass land, and are distributing it into holdings you give the evicted tenant a preference over a migrant?—No. What we do is, when the holding from which the tenant was evicted is not vacant, we refer the evicted tenant to the Estates Commissioners who, under the Act of 1903, are charged with the duty of dealing with evicted tenants. They have special funds for the purpose. And we say to the evicted tenant—"As the Board are not able to restore you to your old holding we will refer your application to the Estates Commissioners. It is their duty to deal with you. It is not the duty of the Board."

2309. I would like to have the policy of the Board analogous to that of the Estates Commissioners. Don't you think the Board ought to have the same power? Is it not quite possible that owing to your operations in any particular county the Estates Commissioners might not be able to purchase any?—I don't think it at all desirable to divide the responsibility of the settlement of the evicted tenants. If we had land in hand and the Estates Commissioners asked the Board for portion of the land for the purpose of putting on it tenants evicted from estates purchased by the Board, the Board, I have no doubt, would give it at once. But I don't think it would be advisable to have the evicted tenants dealt with by two bodies.

2310. Suppose by your operations in the County Mayo and the County Roscommon you excluded the Estates Commissioners from them, would you suggest that the evicted tenant should communicate with the Estates Commissioners, and that they would be able to settle him in another part of the country?—Well, in that event the Board should be prepared to provide the land and the Estates Commissioners would settle the evicted tenants upon it, and supply them with the necessary funds.

2311. Do you think the Board should have that power?—I do not. I think one body should deal with the settlement of the evicted tenants.

* See Table IV., p. 331.

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Mr. H.
Doran.

2282. The CHAIRMAN.—MR. DORAN, I would like you to run over your scheme from the beginning, and see if there is any part of it, any point, which we have left out in the discussion so far?—I would like to get your view as to whether you think it necessary to go into details relating to the estates purchased.

2283. I don't think you need go very deeply into the details of the estates you have bought?—The only advantage is that I can set out the particulars and our difficulties in sequence.

2284. The first instance you give is the Ffrench Estate—"area and rent"—I don't think there is any reason why we should go into that. "Reasons for purchase?"—The reason I suggest is this—the Congested Districts Board have been censured for being very slow in their operations, and the statement of these cases would satisfy those critics that it was not altogether the fault of the Board that they moved so slowly. In fact, the Board made exceptional efforts to get the powers they thought they needed to make satisfactory progress, and up to the present moment they have failed to get these powers.

2285. Of course, we should like to hear that very much, for it certainly affects the question of the working of the Board. But does your memorandum follow the scheme which you handed in previously?—Yes. But if you like, my lord, I will go over the headings very shortly, and not go into detail.

2286. Let us take the scheme—the particulars of the estates acquired by the Board?—I have given you that return. The Board's land purchase transactions were of three classes—first, purchase with their own funds, covering the period from 1881 to 1896. During that time they only bought three estates, the particulars of which I can give. The second class would cover those bought from 1896 to 1903, during which period they purchased forty-three estates by means of an advance of Land Stock, and not with their own funds. These two classes include all estates purchased previous to the passing of the Act of 1903, and they have nearly all been disposed of to the occupiers. The principal purchases have been under the Act of 1903, and the Board have only disposed of a few of those properties, a list of which I gave you in my notes.

2287. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—How many estates were purchased since 1903?—From 1881 to 1896 they purchased three estates; total area, 5,660 acres; poor law valuation, £1,250; purchase price, £18,618. Between 1896 and 1903 they purchased forty-three estates; total area, 164,489 acres; poor law valuation, £53,787; number of tenants, 6,393; total purchase price, £537,461. Under the Act of 1903 they purchased 106 estates, with a total area of 264,973 acres, of which 206,350 acres were tenanted, and 58,283 acres untenanted; the poor law valuation was £69,927; and the number of tenants on the tenanted area was 7,799; the yearly rental of the tenanted land was £43,615; the total purchase money was £1,233,708.

2288. The CHAIRMAN.—Let us stop there. In the memorandum you say the first three estates were purchased with your own funds?—Yes.

2289. Was it necessary, in order to give you sufficient funds to purchase those estates to give less money for other purposes included in the Board's work when it was created? Did you pay rather less attention to the development of fisheries or the creation of industries by reason of the fact that you had to provide money for this purchase of estates?—The Board's operations at that period were of a comparatively small character, and so the funds necessary for these estates did not seriously embarrass the finances.

2290. The work of industrial development and fishery development went on absolutely unimpaired?—No; they could have applied more money to those purposes but for the diversion of funds for the purchase of estates.

2291. You would have applied more money to industries and fisheries only that you had to provide money for these estates?—Yes.

2292. Sir JOHN COLVILLE.—I have your memorandum. It appears, turning it into percentages of acres bought—has it been worked out in percentages?—I don't think so.

2293. I work out that in the operations under the Act of 1903 to date the proportion of untenanted land bought was less than it was in the case of the three estates bought first. I make out that in the case of estates bought between 1881 and 1896 35 per cent of the total acreage was untenanted land?—It was less than that.

2294. That is merely roughly. Between 1886 and 1903 I work out that only 15 per cent of the total amount purchased was untenanted land; and that since 1903 it was 27 per cent. I only ask you approximately?—It was 50,233 acres untenanted and 206,350 acres tenanted.

2295. Now, it appears there is an enormous increase in the purchase price, measured by years' purchase, for the last group of operations. That is, since 1903?—Yes.

2296. Well, now, this is what I want to get at, what was given respectively for tenanted and untenanted land?—I can give you that. I gave you the price of the tenanted land yesterday. I can give it to you again. 193 years is the average under the Act of 1903 for the tenanted land; for the untenanted, 27½, of an estimated fair rent equivalent to a second term, if the land in its present condition were occupied by tenants, that is, the estimate made by me and my staff of valuers.

2297. That only applies to the group of estates purchased since 1903?—Yes. In the cases for 1881 to 1896 for untenanted lands the price on the same basis was twenty-five years. In the first period the tenanted land cost about twelve years.

Mr. O'KEEFE.—The first operations were twelve years' purchase of the tenanted lands.

2298. Mr. BAYNE.—And the number of years purchase of the untenanted were 1-25½.

2299. Mr. O'KEEFE.—From 1886 to 1903 the price was seventeen years' purchase of the rental?—An average of 18½ for the whole period.

2300. Including tenanted and untenanted in those cases?—That would be misleading. You must keep the tenanted and untenanted lands separate for the purpose of comparing the relative cost of the estates.

2301. The total rental of the estates purchased from 1886 to 1903 was £30,155. That is the second operation?—That is only the rental of the tenanted lands.

2302. That works out at seventeen years' purchase?—I gave the figures yesterday to some member of the Commission, and he asked for an average. It varies according to the class of rental, second and first term. Taking the purchases made by the Board from 1886 to 1903, the average rate of purchase on first term rent was fifteen years; the average rate on second term was 19½.

2303. The CHAIRMAN.—Tenanted land?—Tenanted land.

2304. Untenanted?—Twenty-five.

2305. In the second period?—In the second period, twenty-five years' purchase of an estimated fair rent.

2306. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Would that estimated fair rent be approximately the grazing rent?—Oh, very much less. The price does not come to twenty-three years on the grazing rent.

2307. The CHAIRMAN.—The third period?—The purchases under the Act of 1903. In that the average rate of purchase for tenanted land, first term rent, was 19½; second term, it was 21½.

2308. The CHAIRMAN.—Untenanted.—Twenty-seven two-thirds.

2309. Mr. BAYNE.—Under the Act of 1881, that is during the first three years, your average was twelve years for the first term?—Yes, on very poor estates.

2310. The second term?—We had no second term then.

2311. Under the Act of 1903 are you including the bonus?—Oh, not the bonus in any cases. For all the untenanted land, for which the Board paid £474,613, the average purchase price works out at twenty-seven years of an estimated fair rent for a resident tenant to pay.

Sept. 12, 1896

Mr H.
Jones

2324. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Yesterday I understood you to say that in buying estates in the future you would have to give more than in the past. Therefore, the rate per cent. of loss would increase from six to twelve?—That was not what I intended to convey. What I should have said, if I did not say it, was that the Board's operations on the estates they had sold and completed worked out at an average loss of 4 per cent. on cost price. These are all estates purchased previous to the Act of 1903. None of the estates purchased under the Act of 1903 came within that statement. And I explained that, being obliged to give a higher rate of purchase than previously, they could not recover as much of the expenditure as under previous transactions, for the reason that they had to buy the same class of estates at a higher price, and as the profits from land had not increased they could not add as much for enhanced value as formerly.

2325. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—With regard to under-landed land, I suppose as the supply diminishes under the operations of the Board, the value of the grazing lands would rise?—That would seem to be a natural result.

2326. The CHAIRMAN.—Why?—Because of the reduction of the area of such land, with a probable increase in the production of live stock.

2327. Such land?—Land used solely for grazing purposes. Assuming that the present conditions continue to prevail, it would affect the value of store cattle. But if you mean, Sir John, that the fact of taking up considerable areas of these lands and planting upon them what I call working farmers, would result in fewer store cattle in the same area, I don't take that view. I think that if you got 1,000 acres of the lands of Roscommon, and disposed of them in, say, 320 or 325 holdings of about thirty acres, in the occupation of working farmers, the stock which they would raise on these farms would exceed the number fed upon the same area now, even though they had a portion of the farms under cultivation. Because in nearly all these cases there is a portion of land capable of improvement. The people would naturally attend to the drainage, cultivation, and improvement of the inferior portions. They would thereby increase the capacity of a given holding to carry more stock. Again, the fact of keeping a portion of the land under tillage would enable them to feed a larger number of stock in the winter. And I have not the least doubt that I could satisfy you by figures that a given area, parcelled out into holdings of about 225 annual value, would feed more store cattle than the same area as now managed.

2328. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Well, accepting that, I ask you this: in a given area, taken up in a given district from a grazer, and turned into small holdings, and granting that these small holdings will be in the hands of men that will raise more stock, what is to become elsewhere in Ireland of the small holders, who cannot keep their stock after a year or a year and a half, and must sell them to the grazer, because there is no Great Britain demand for stock until they are nearly three years old?—In the West of Ireland there is a considerable exportation of two-and-a-half year old cattle.

2329. Taking your case, and taking the locality only, without going into the general economic question all over Ireland, and admitting that as area is taken up and worked in that way by good farmers, divided into small holdings, admitting that they can raise more stock, can they keep it till it is of an age to be taken to the English market?—They can keep these animals for the same length of time that the grazer keeps them. I don't see anything to prevent them if they have sufficient capital.

2330. You cannot put a quart into a pint pot. If a man starts on one of these holdings with, say, three cows, and goes on raising calves, the older stock will be pushed out as the others come on. He must dispose of them, because his land is limited. Is not that so? Turning to the economic position of Ireland with regard to stock, is it not the case for the larger portion of the western part of Ireland that the average tenant cannot keep the best he has reared until it is two years old?—Yes; the reason being he has not sufficient land.

2331. Therefore he has got to dispose of his stock before it is two years old, that is at present?—Yes.

2332. At present the people who come to the West to buy these cattle, are they or are they not the big grass holders and graziers of the other parts of Ireland?—Yes. The local graziers buy the younger class of stock for these grass farms. The Meath men usually buy from the grazer after he has fed them for six or twelve months.

2333. They go on grazing from one holding to another, but the fact remains that the market is found among the small landholders in the south and west of Ireland—the market is provided by buyers coming from these grass lands?—That is because the grass land is held by graziers who buy from the small farmers the young stock they cannot keep owing to the smallness of their holdings.

2334. The men who don't raise stock, but keep them and make a profit on the transaction; buy them from the small holders, and keep them until the markets in Great Britain will take them?—Precisely; and I want to put the profit into the hands of the small farmer instead of letting the middleman take it.

2335. Your position is, if the grass lands were all taken up and divided among small holders the market in Great Britain would still be supplied with what it wants of two-year-old cattle and upwards?—The supply would be larger than it is at present. The lands would be able to feed more.

2336. Is this your opinion—that, given the position as you picture it, Ireland would be able to export to Great Britain just as much of two or three year old stock as at present?—Somewhat more in my opinion, even though each of these farmers has an acre under crop.

2337. You will admit that any holding will only carry a certain amount of stock?—But if that holding be improved, it can carry more stock.

2338. But there is a limit to the number of stock a holding can carry?—Yes.

2339. If a man is raising stock, is it not the case that the process of raising stock is somewhat different from the process of finishing stock?—They don't finish much stock on the grass lands of Connaght.

2340. The process of raising stock is somewhat different from the process of dealing with stock after it is two years old?—Yes, but they don't do that in the West after two-and-a-half years old. These grazing farmers have merely stone land, and their stock are bought by the men who have the fattening land in their possession in Meath and elsewhere. The small farmer raises them up to one and a-half or two years old. He sells to the grazing farmer, who keeps them for periods varying from six to twelve months, and he in turn sells them to the man who fattens them. My proposal would get rid of the middleman, and bring the man who raises them into direct touch with the man who has the fattening land.

2341. You eliminate the middleman in the process of transferring the cattle from the man who raises them to their final landing in Great Britain?—Yes.

Mr. BAYNE.—Or landing in Meath?

2342. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Therefore when you are giving information about grass lands you are excluding Meath absolutely?—My observations are confined altogether to the counties in Connaght containing congested districts. I am not suggesting to take up land in Meath for relief of the congestion in the subinhabited districts.

2343. But you will admit that as a Commissioner engaged in this inquiry I cannot limit my view to the lands in which you are interested; and that it is our business only to look at the whole question from the economic point of view in the interests of Ireland. Therefore, when you are talking of grass lands, are you absolutely eliminating from your mind Meath?—Yes; I was eliminating the rich grazing lands of the country, which would be quite unprofitable for small farmers to be settled on. They are not good lands for cropping. They are too rich. If a man grows potatoes on these very rich lands they are so coarse and large that they are frequently unfit for food. If he grows corn on this rich land in this wet climate a lot of it lodges. In practice, the small landholder in Mayo raises better potatoes on his poor land than can be raised on the rich lands of Meath. These rich lands are much more expensive to cultivate, they are heavy and tenacious; and in my opinion are much more valuable to the country under grass.

Sept. 15, 1906.

Mr. H.
Dunn.

2335. It would be an economic wrong to Ireland to detach them?—They are more profitable under grass.

2336. You don't wish to contend that all Meath is of that class?—I don't make any observations to Meath. I say that the rich fattening land in Ireland, no matter where it is, is not suitable to settle small farmers upon. The land which is most suitable for that purpose is the indifferent grazing land, commonly called more land, which will be made much more productive when put under a course of cultivation.

2337. You say not merely in Meath, but all over Ireland. Are not there patches even west of that line as congested districts that are very similar?—There are.

2338. Therefore, in your mind you eliminate them?—Yes; anywhere they are found.

2339. Therefore, may I put it in this way: when you speak to us of unfattened grazing land, what you mean is land that is more suited to cultivation than to simple grazing purposes?—Yes; for mixed farming.

2340. That is what is in your mind. Every time you use the expression grass lands what you mean is land that is diverted from its proper purpose of cultivation to grazing?—Yes.

2341. The CHAIRMAN.—Is not what happens that the small man in the West breeds the animal?—Yes.

2342. It is then generally bought by what you would call the middleman?—Commonly called the grazer.

2343. Who keeps it for a certain time, and makes it rather fatter?—He puts it into store condition.

2344. And then it is passed on to the richer lands, where it is completed?—That is so, or purchased by British exporters for fattening in the stalls. It is either finished in stalls in England or Scotland or it is put on the best grazing lands in this country for fattening on the grass.

2345. But the animal improves on the middle land, the grazers land?—Yes.

2346. Is not it quite possible that you would be able to improve that beast just as well there, perhaps even better, by growing food upon that land and feeding it with that food instead of feeding it on grass?—If we had anything like a satisfactory standard of husbandry in the country that would be largely done; that is to say, the farmers on such holdings as I have indicated into which these grass areas should be cut up into, would fatten a couple of beasts on the turnips and other crops they would raise upon the land if they manage it in a husbandlike manner.

2347. Is it this: there are two forms of fattening beasts. One is the natural process of letting it out to graze; and the other is growing turnips and other roots and hay is necessary, and fattening the beasts in stalls?—Yes; one in winter and the other in summer.

2348. Is not it possible to do it in the summer as well as the winter; is not it possible to fatten beasts naturally upon the stall system, or must you always have a certain amount of grass?—To attempt it in the summer would mean you would have to feed them largely on artificial food, such as oil cake and perhaps silage, but that could not be a profitable method of fattening, as the production of food under such conditions would cost more than you get for it in the market. The way I would put it is that the fattening of in-fatt cattle in Ireland in the summer is out of the question, but the in-fatt fattening of cattle in winter is a mode of fattening cattle that ought to be much more general than it is, because the manure produced by fattening the cattle in that way enables the farmer to put his land into a very much more productive state than he could otherwise do. He has more farmyard manure produced, and of better quality, because of feeding these fattening animals with concentrated feeding stuffs—oil cake, etc.

2349. What time of the year usually do these grazers buy the cattle?—Twice a year. In April and May for the summer grazing, and again in October and November for the winter.

2350. On grass lands is it now the custom to feed upon roots during the winter, or upon grass?—In no part of Ireland do they attempt the fattening of cattle in the open air in winter, if that be what you mean.

2351. But you say the cattle are bought in November for winter feeding?—They are, but they are mostly exported, because there are so few farmers in Ireland who cultivate a considerable area that only a very

few of the best cattle are bought in this country for stall feeding. The great bulk go to England and Scotland, where they are fed in the stalls and sold for beef.

2352. If there is no winter feeding in the open air in Ireland, what would happen if these grazers' lands were broken up, as you contemplate?—It would go on very much as it does at present, only that the small farmers instead of the middleman would own the cattle.

2353. You say in the summer time it is always necessary to feed in the open air on grass?—You mean fattening.

2354. The process the grazer puts the cattle through?—Everywhere in Ireland they feed in the open air in summer.

2355. You say the grazer would never be able to feed the animal in the stall in the winter time?—He would not.

2356. Therefore he would have to feed it in the fields on grass?—Yes.

2357. How is he going to get on if you break up the grass lands?—Because the land to be broken up is not land that would fatten cattle. It is only good enough for store cattle.

2358. The grazer performs two functions?—There are two classes of grazer: the grazer who only purchases what are commonly called store cattle, who has indifferent land in his possession, not good enough to fatten. He purchases cattle about one and a-half or two years old; he feeds for six months in summer, one lot, and sells them in November, and then he buys in another lot of cattle for the winter.

2359. Presumably these animals have got fatter in the interval?—They have grown and developed.

2360. On what have they grown fat?—They have grown large, but not fat.

2361. Their frame-work has grown?—Yes, and on the better class of store land they do put up some meat and would be sold in that case as what are called forward stores. But what I want to make clear is they won't fatten. The grazers of the West of Ireland sell very few of their cattle to the butcher. They are not good enough. They sell them to men in Meath, or men who export them for stall feeding in England or Scotland.

2362. Then, when you told Sir John you thought the settlement of the people on the grass lands would have the effect of raising the price of the grass lands which remained, you only meant the best lands?—Only the best lands would remain if I had my way.

2363. Sir John's question was, whether in contemplation of the economic value of the grass lands, it was not true that the settlement of the people on part of the grass lands would increase the price of the remainder of the grass lands, and you said you thought it would have that effect?—I have no doubt it would.

2364. You had in your mind the better class of grass lands?—Even the land that is not of the first quality, there being less of it, it should become more valuable, bearing in mind my statement that more store cattle would be produced on these grass areas when given away to working farmers.

2365. What I don't understand is if this poor land under grass is broken up, how will it increase the value of other lands similar to it, always supposing that such grass is useless for fattening purposes?—Perhaps this is the best way I can explain. The fact of putting upon the existing grass lands a number of farmers will not reduce the number of stock which these grass areas maintain. I said the number would neither increase, that more stock could be raised on the same area than is now raised by the grazing farmer, who does nothing to improve his land.

2366. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Grass includes fattening up the store?—Not fattening, but feeding up to sell in store condition. If there are 5,000 acres of grass land at present, say, in a union, and you give away 4,000 acres of it to small farmers who have more stock on it than were previously fed upon it, it appears reasonable to assume that, as there are left only 1,000 acres of open land, there will be more competition for it. In fact, some of the new settlers may be clustering together, competing for it to put on some of their surplus stock, or the man who has it in hands will be able to get a higher rate per head for the grazing of the neighbours' cattle upon it, because the area of the grass lands is less than it was, while the number of stock in the district has increased.

2367. I think you contemplate the abolition of the middleman and the grazer class from these lands, and the transfer immediately of the store cattle to the lands of Meath and other such centres?—Yes.

Sept. 11, 1904.
Mr. H.
Dowse.

2367. Is an animal in the store condition fit to transfer immediately to the richest grazing lands without having passed through the intermediate stage?—It remains on the same land for the intermediate stage, but is owned by a small farmer instead of by a grazer.

2368. You contemplate the small people will do without the big people who are there now?—They will keep the cattle a year longer instead of selling to a grazer.

2369. Sir JOHN COLSON.—All over Ireland?—In the parts you are asking me about.

2370. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The beast is calved in the spring?—Yes.

2371. The small farmer in existing circumstances keeps him until he is nearly two years old?—One and a half years old.

2372. That brings him into the winter?—Yes.

2373. What do you propose the small holder would do with him the following winter?—If he has land enough he would keep him over for another year.

2374. Still on grass?—Winter him, and keeps him another year.

2375. Then he sells to what you call the fattening man, who either takes him away or puts him in a stall?—Yes.

2376. Therefore, I understand you to contend if you give the small man a little more land he will be able to raise and keep up to the fattening stage the same number of beasts as the grazer keeps?—As many as the grazer keeps, at least—more, in my opinion.

2377. Sir JOHN COLSON.—You say there will be more stock raised on these grass lands when they are parcelled out among the small holders?—Yes; if they manage these lands in a husbandlike manner they can raise more stock than is raised now in its present condition.

2378. Taking the 4,000 acres of grass lands you referred to, the cattle that go on these grass lands are drawn from all over Ireland?—Yes; if you do that all over Ireland.

2379. You referred to a case in which there were 4,000 acres of grass lands to be dealt with. My object is to find out the probable economic effect on the rest of Ireland of dividing up those 4,000 acres. You have been very clear, and I will accept it, that if those 4,000 acres are broken up into small holdings those small holdings on those 4,000 acres would raise more stock, but then you interfere with the cattle which are grazed on that land from all over Ireland, and which cannot be kept by the men who raise them until they are two years old?—No; because they won't be able to produce all the cattle required, and they will have to go and buy the surplus young stock in the poorer districts.

2380. There will be a multitude of people doing the same?—Presumably. Instead of having one grazer, with one herd, going to one of the western fairs, and taking away 150 head of cattle to put on his 1,000 acres ranch you will have thirty fence-coated, hard-headed men going to the same fair to purchase the same number or more of cattle.

2381. You contemplate that these small holders planted in this small area will be competent and fit to mind their farms, and keep on cultivating them and run about Ireland buying stock?—They will not have to go far—no farther than the grazer goes now.

2382. Who is to deal with my county—Kerry; what is to become of that?—I am confining my observations to the West of Ireland. There is little land for the purpose in Kerry.

2383. I am looking at it from the point of view of the economic question of Ireland. The question, broadly speaking, applies to the farming industry of Ireland?—My answer is, there is no such land in Kerry, and the questions we have been discussing in connection with the lands in the West of Ireland do not apply. The land problem in Connought has special features. You have there very densely congested areas, and in comparatively close proximity you have huge tracts of grazing land, without any population upon it except a few herds.

2384. I say these 4,000 acres, these grazing lands that we referred to have on them now cattle drawn from the small holders all over Clare, Kerry and Cork, and I say that if you went on those lands you would find the cattle have been drawn from these different parts of Ireland, because the small holders could not keep them. My point is this, if you suddenly, for

the people of the district, cut up those 4,000 acres, I want to know how the want and the demand of the small holders in other parts of Ireland is going to be filled when you have taken away 4,000 acres from grazing?—My answer to that would be that if these men, who were planted on the 4,000 acres, could not find the surplus young stock they require at the fairs within a reasonable distance, which I consider improbable, they will either individually have to go far away to buy their two or three head of cattle, or their requirements will be met most likely by an enterprising cattle dealer, who, seeing that the demand for store cattle exceeds the local supply, will go to these remote places, and will buy cattle of the class that he knows these small men want, and he will sell them to them at the local fairs.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—May I suggest that this is the answer—5,000 cattle, we will say, are fed on certain Connought grazing lands at present; 5,000 cattle will still be fed on these grazing lands, but by other people, by the small holders. Therefore there is no additional feeding or no additional want of feeding for the rest of Ireland. There would be the same grazing land for the cattle available in Connought as there is to-day.

Sir JOHN COLSON.—The cattle raised in Connought? Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It does not matter where they are raised. If you take 4,000 cattle that are now raised in one way, and feed the cattle then in a different way in Connought, if there is the same amount of grazing in the rest of the country, you will find the same number of cattle to graze.

2385. The CHAIRMAN.—If those lands in Connought only graze 5,000 cattle on the existing amount of grass, and if Mr. Dowse is right in thinking grass an absolute necessity for the cattle at some period of the year: if you grow potatoes on 1,000 of those acres that we have been talking about, what will you do for the grass land thus taken away?—The proportion of the land under cultivation will be much less than you suggest, and the portion the tenant will have under cultivation will yield more feeding for the cattle than the same area under grass. The fact of having a portion of the farm under cultivation may increase instead of diminishing the amount of feeding for the stock on the holding.

Now Sir Dr. O'DONNELL.—If the grass lands are broken up, as you suggest, would the new cultivators largely raise their own stock?—No; unless they went in for dairy farming.

2386. Hence they would still continue to buy stock from the more western districts?—Yes.

2387. Would the new cultivators be capable of stall-feeding on their own account?—Quite capable. If they knew their business, they would do it.

2388. What land is so good that you would exclude it from cultivation? you say you would exclude the best land from cultivation?—Some of the best grazing lands in Ireland have a soil that is very retentive, heavy drift material, like most of the midlands of Ireland.

2389. How much of that land is situated in the Western province?—In Connought there is very little of it, but there are isolated farms.

2390. Meath has been mentioned more than once—have you any acquaintance with Meath?—I have in a general way.

2391. How much of the land of Meath would you exclude from cultivation as first-class grazing land?—I could not answer that. I have not looked into it.

2392. Only first-class grazing land you would exclude?—The fattening land, heavy retentive land that is not suitable for agricultural purposes.

2393. Shall we take it that the Irish land you would exclude from the plough is finishing land?—Yes.

2394. The CHAIRMAN.—I think you want to say something of the Board's relations with the Land Commission?—It is within the reference, and I understood I would be asked about it. I have no desire to say anything in particular about it beyond giving the history of the Board's land purchase transactions.

2395. Would you take the heads in your Memorandum?—Shall I go into striping and amalgamation?—These maps here (referring) have been prepared to give the Commissioners some idea of the intricate work we have to do in connection with the re-arrangement of estates. I submit four maps in connection with the Bingham estate recently purchased, four typical townlands. There are 364 hold-

Sept. 15, 1896.
Mr. H.
Moran.

1893. The rental of these 344 holdings is £1,164 a year, and the 344 holdings are held in 5,051 detached parts. The first work we have got to do after we lay an estate is to make a survey and map of the holdings as they are. You can fancy what trouble this entails in cases like these.

2396. If the figures I have are right there are 344 tenants with 5,051 detached parts for which they pay a rent of £1,164.—Yes.

2397. The average is fifteen detached parts for each tenant.—Yes. I have a schedule here which divides the holdings according to rent and shows that there are twenty-seven under £2 rent.

2398. Roughly, the rent is under £3 per tenant, and there are fifteen detached parts in each holding.—Yes. The boundaries you see indicated on this map with dotted lines have no fences, only marks in the ground. These are all rural holdings, each one having a share defined on ground by perhaps a stone stuck up or a rib of uncultivated land left to indicate the boundary. In the cultivated area each one cultivates his own division. When the crop is out of the ground the cattle graze over it in "co." To give you an idea of how confused the plots comprising these holdings are, I submit two tracings for each townland, one showing a holding on each townland with the average number of detached plots; and the second showing the maximum number in each of these townlands. There is one of the holdings coloured red (*infested*). It is in thirty-six separate portions. The total area of the thirty-six divisions is six acres twenty-eight perches, and the rent £2 7s. 6d. That is one of the worst holdings in this townland. Here is an average holding on the townland, so that you won't consider I am over-stating the case. The average one is coloured blue. It has the average number of divisions of the townland, sixteen. The total area of the sixteen divisions shown blue on the map is eight acres thirty-three perches and the rent of the holding is £2 8s. 10d. Here is a schedule (produced) of one of these holdings with the area of each plot, one used twenty-four perches, fifteen perches, four perches, one rood nineteen perches, and so on; half a perch in one case. Here is another holding on the same estate. The holding coloured red is in twenty-four divisions. The area is twelve acres nine perches, and the rent is £3 11s. The holding coloured blue contains fifteen divisions, and consists of eleven acres thirty-five perches at a rent of £2. The holding coloured red is in thirty-nine divisions. The total area is six acres three roods and thirty-five perches, and the total rent is £2 15s. 10d. The adjoining holding coloured blue consists of four acres thirty perches in twenty-nine divisions at a rent of 27s. 6d. I have now given you in each of the three townlands the holding having the largest number of divisions and a holding having the average. That is the sort of work we are told we should get through in three or four months, although we have to make voluntary arrangements with each individual tenant. If the man with the holding marked red won't arrange with us he prevents us from striping several holdings on the townland. As a further example of what we have done, there is an island off the sea coast on the Leonard estate near Carrig, with the land coloured red. There is one holding in fifteen separate divisions, and on this one holding there are three tenants, each man having a share here and there within this red enclosure. There was that island as we got it (*infested* on map). Here is the island as we left it, with each tenant's holding fenced (*extinct* on map). We made a road right through it, and another road across from shore to shore, and laid out each man's share of the land in two divisions, and they have since bought out their holdings. All the particulars are given in my Memorandum.

2399. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Had the tenants a right of way over each other's holdings?—Before the striping they had to go over each other's plots. While a beast was grazing on any tenant's holding a member of the family had to remain herding the animal so as to prevent it from going on the cropped land. Now each one has his land fenced, and access is given by a road to each of the stripes. It was a regular mess when the Board took it up. Now each one has his own division. The result is that the people have made great improvements; they have cleared the land of rocks and done things that they could not attempt otherwise; and although they could not live out of the holdings alone, yet most of them are now able to keep a cow which gives milk for the family, and they have

potatoes and vegetables enough for food. Some of them live mainly by the sale of milk. Some of them by fishing. This island is very much exposed, and a very large quantity of seaweed is thrown up on the shore, with the result that some of the families make up to £30 a year from kelp.

2400. The CHAIRMAN.—On the map of the land, as you bought it, there is shown no cultivation on the right-hand side?—That is a sandy place. We stripped it, so as to give each man a share to dry seaweed upon.

2401. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Had these holdings any judicial rent put upon them?—Yes, most of these were judicial holdings; that is in the neighbourhood of where the submarine estate was discovered.

2402a. I suppose the origin of all that in the North is very much the same as in the South, leaving the people to settle how they arrange things?—As long as they paid their rents the landlords never troubled about them.

2402. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That is really work that some one connected with the estate should have done?—Yes; this is another map which I would like to refer to. This is French Island (indicated), another island on the same estate. It was pretty much the same as the island I have just described, with its holdings all mixed up. In that area there was one grass farm of forty-six acres, for which a gramer, who lived about thirteen miles away, paid £45 a year rent. We dispossessed the gramer, and gave this land as outcrops to the tenants' holdings, and the island is now striped out as it appears on this map (*infested*).

2403. Were all these tenants on the land before along with the gramer?—Yes, twenty-two families; here is the townland of Carna (*infested*), which members of the Commission saw; there were some tenancies grouped as you see there. There were eight hundred acres of mountain and bog land in the hands of a gramer tenant under the Court. When the Board were offering for this in the open court, this tenant was one of the keenest competitors, expecting to be financed by another department of the State, to enable him to purchase out this land, and take it from the tenants. The man was in poor circumstances and could not pay cash for it, but he competed against the Board on the assumption that the Land Commission would have to advance him the money to buy it. This transaction indicates the necessity of altering the law so that an occupier of land required for relief of congestion would not be financed by any Government Department to compete against another Government Department.

2404. Mr. BERRY.—Was he a judicial tenant?—No; he was a Court tenant, that is, a tenant of land dealt with by the Land Judge's Court; the letting is usually made for a period of seven years pending the matter; and if the estate is sold, he will have to give up possession at the end of the six months succeeding date of sale.

2405. Sir JOHN COLSON.—It is his interest if possible to cease all the delay he can't—I merely instance this to show that if the Government were watchful of the interests of the congested districts it would be impossible for a temporary tenant to get State aid to purchase land which adjacent small landholders urgently require.

2406. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Were these all judicial tenants?—Most of them were.

2407. How did the Land Commission map that?—They did not attempt to map it.

2408. Sir JOHN COLSON.—In the fixing of the judicial rent the Commissioners must have had a map before them?—These maps were fixed before it was necessary to have a map, in the early days. The Board bought this estate in 1820-3.

2409. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Still you must show the boundaries?—In a great many cases here the red patches on the map represent two or three tenancies. What they usually did was to get a local surveyor to measure each of the little divisions; they estimate the value on that survey; they could not show the holdings on a six-inch map.

2410. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you suggest asking for compulsory powers to compel the tenants to let you stripe the land?—The Board have the power now on the requisition of three-quarters of the tenants of any townland to compel the remaining quarter to agree to stripe. It would be desirable, I think, that the Board should have fuller powers than they have, but at the same time we have got through a great deal of work without compulsion.

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Mr. H.
Dewar,

2411. You did not tell us whether you had striped that first estate you told us of?—That is in hands at present; part of it is striped.

2412. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—These extreme cases of misale, do you find them chiefly on the seaboard, have you come across as bad a case as that island?—Yes, the Bingham estate is inland.

2413. So it is in no sense peculiar to maritime districts?—It is more general in the maritime districts than inland, but it is not confined to those. There are not so many cases, but they are good types. I want to satisfy the Commission that work of the kind which the Board find it necessary to undertake in connection with the striping of land is, as you can derive from what I have pointed out, a very delicate operation, and requires local influence in the way of winning people, sometimes to get them to be of a reasonable frame of mind. We have to try to be more or less diplomats in order to get people to accept our proposals, and we inevitably show them on the ground what we propose to do. Practically all the arrangements rest on voluntary agreements. I would ask the Commission to bear these considerations in mind when forming an opinion as to whether the Board's progress has been satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

2414. The CHAIRMAN.—Is there anything else on striping and amalgamation you wish to say?—If you are satisfied with what I have said, I don't think it is necessary to pursue it any further.

2415. Perhaps you had better tell us about Clare Island. Is not that different?—It is very much the same.

2416. Is not there some arrangement of keeping the people all together?—I can give you particulars about Clare Island.

2417. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Why was it found necessary to erect such a high wall separating the grazing from the arable land?—Because the mountain commonage, which comprises about two-thirds of the island, was of a character that would only feed mountain sheep, and they are very difficult to keep within bounds. Unless the fences were very good, the people would have to continue to keep the sheep as they used to do from daylight until dark, while their crops were growing, to save their crops.

2418. Ordinary wire fencing would not have done?—Ordinary wire fencing would have done as well, in fact better than walls; but I suggested that the Board should not put up wire fencing, but have a wall erected and pay the people for making it. The wire fencing would have cost less, but the people would not have earned much on its erection. The tenants were told they would have to pay a certain sum in discharge of what they owed; they got a chance of earning that money on the construction of the wall.

2419. So it was not the sufficiency of the fence?—No; the construction of the wall represents the discharge of the arrears by the islanders.

2420. What did it cost?—About £3,600.

2421. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—What would wire fencing cost?—About £1,000.

2422. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—You get a stone wall instead of the arrears?—Yes.

2423. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I think it would be of much interest if you explained the financing of Clare Island?—On the 15th March, 1895, the Board purchased with their own funds, and without reference to the Land Commission, the Clare Island estate for the sum of £25,586. The extent of the island was 3,949 acres, the Free Land Valuation £807 18s. 6d., and the rental £483 9s. 6d., payable by ninety-eight tenants. The Board got possession of 740 acres of land, valued at £292, which was held under temporary lettings. As set out in the Annual Report of the 31st March, 1903, the Board had considerable hesitation in purchasing this island, for the tenants were largely in arrears of rent, owing £1,736 to the 1st May, 1895, and they also owed large arrears of rates. About twenty of them had been evicted for non-payment of rent, and the remainder were generally regarded as being in a lawless condition, for they had for a couple of years ceased to pay either rent, rates, or taxes.

2424. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is the statement about 740 acres of land valued at £292 a misprint?—No. It is mostly rough mountain land. There were practically no fences upon the island even to protect the growing crops, and the crops were only saved from destruction by the cattle and sheep through the vigilance of the tenants and members of the family, who, with the aid of dogs protected them

from daylight to dark, from springtime to harvest; during the winter the stock were allowed practically to roam all over the island. That was the condition of tenure there when the Board purchased it. The first work undertaken on the island by the Board was the construction of a wall to separate the land which was cultivable, or partly cultivable, from the mountain grazing. The land between this wall and the sea was partitioned into strips or holdings, each of which was fenced from the commonage wall to the sea. A strip was assigned to each tenant entitled to a new holding, on the basis of the rest of the old holding; and as an appendage to each of the new holdings there was given the right of grazing a specified number of "stags" or "collops" on the mountain commonage outside the new wall, which comprised about two-thirds of the area of the island.

2425. Mr. BAKER.—What are "stags" and "collops"?—A "stag" means a cow or other beast, over three years old, or an equivalent number of sheep. In Clare Island they put eight dry sheep as equivalent to a cow; similarly for the young stock, two-year-olds, or yearlings.

2426. These are "collops"?—Yes; the Commission will have some idea of the labour involved in the work when I tell them that the commonage wall was over seven miles in length, over six feet high, built of dry stone, and with a substantial coping on top; and that over thirty-five miles of meaning fences were made from this wall to the sea. Here is Clare Island as it was when the Board bought it in the Land Judge's Court (indicates on map); here it is as we left it. This is the boundary wall; here is the striping down to the sea. This is the grazing commonage, and each holder of a strip has the right to graze a specified number of "stags" or "collops" on the commonage. These given lines represent the boundaries of the holdings.

2427. Are these fences walls?—No, mostly and fences, and in cases where the ground was shallow and stones more convenient we put up stone walls, whichever was the cheaper kind of fence.

2428. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What does the wire-fencing cost per yard in Ireland?—It depends on the height; a good fence could be put up there for about 2s. 6d. to 3s. per yard.

2429. That is three times as much as we pay in Scotland—about six wires?—Getting the fencing materials from the landing place to the site of fences on the hillside on the backs of horses, and without carts, would cost a good deal.

2430. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—You are talking of what is practically a deer fence?—Yes, for mountain sheep, about six feet, with three barbed wires and three plain wires, and very strong straining posts. All the tenants were obliged to pay, within six months, a substantial portion (averaging about two years' rent) of the arrears due by them. They had little difficulty in doing this out of their earnings at the construction of the walls, fences, roads, and other improvement works, and from the sale of live stock. It was fully considered by the Board as to whether it would be wiser to put up wire fences than stone walls, and it was agreed to put up the stone walls, at a greater cost for the reason I have explained. The works were in progress for about five years, and the total expenditure on improvement works was £25,589, from which may be deducted £23,514, received for rent and arrears, leaving a net expenditure of £2,075, to which is to be added the purchase price of the free-title of estate and of tenants' interest in holdings taken up, amounting together to £5,472, making the total net cost of estate £10,547. That is to say the Board bought this estate in the Land Judge's Court in the open market; it had been for sale for a number of years and there were no bidders; the Board bought it for £5,000, and expended upon it £3,589, and deducting from that expenditure the rent collected, the net cost of the estate to them was £10,547.

2431. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Wherever you mention the total expenditure on improvement works do you include part of the salaries of your own department?—Yes; the officers immediately in charge, but my salary and the salaries of all the principal officials are charged against general administration. The gaugers, foremen in charge of works, surveyors, clerks of works, are put down against the expenditure on this estate.

2432. But none of the clerical work or administrative work?—No; the amount paid to surveyors and clerks of works is apportioned against

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Dwyer.

each estate at the end of the year, through charged in the first instance to a suspense account.

2433. It appears given in the reports that administrative expenditure during the year was £30,594; is any part of that charged against the expenses of the improvements?—No. The Board were of opinion, having regard to the bad reputation which the Clare Islanders had in the payment of rent and rates, and the remote situation of the island, that the Land Commission might decline to make any substantial advance in respect of the sale price of the holdings, without requiring a guarantee under the Act of 1894 for a considerable sum.

2434. The CHAIRMAN.—Just explain that, will you; you bought this estate with your own funds?—Yes, but the Board could sell it as an ordinary landlord would through the Land Commission to the tenants and get back the sale price and thus recoup their funds. The advance in respect of the purchase of each holding by the tenant would, under ordinary condition, be made by the Land Commission.

2435. Having bought it in the open market you could sell it direct to the tenants, or you could sell it through the Land Commission, is that so?—Yes.

2436. You decided to sell it direct to the tenants?—Yes.

2437. You came to the conclusion because you thought the Land Commission would not advance the money?—The Land Commission, in the two previous purchases we had negotiated, stopped a large sum on the grounds of insufficient security. This was done in the case of the French estate, which was sold to the tenants at sixteen years' purchase, and having regard to their action in connection with that estate the Board thought they probably would say they would not accept any responsibility about Clare Island.

2438. Explain please about the refusal of the Land Commission?—The Board decided to sell it direct to the tenants themselves, for two reasons—first that they believed the Land Commission would not agree to take any responsibility in connection with the sale of that land, or in other words would agree to advance only a small sum.

2439. Mr. Dwyer.—I think what Lord Dudley wished explained is the refusal of the Land Commission in the case of the other estate that you mentioned. You never asked the Land Commission about this?—No.

The CHAIRMAN.—I would like you to explain that in order to make us understand why you thought the Land Commission would refuse in this case.

Mr. Dwyer.—It is set forth on page two of his Memorandum—why the Land Commission refused in the other case.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You can take it up by saying we did this because on the French estate, so and so happened.

2440. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Was there one leading difficulty in the matter, the fact that the Land Commission would not sell to the tenants of small holdings?—That was one, but that was got over on the passing of the Act of 1899.

2441. Did not that continue after the Act of 1899?—Yes, up to passing of the Act of 1899.

2442. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You did not go to the Land Commission because they had already decided in the French estate?—The Board decided they would not approach the Land Commission in connection with the sale of this estate, for in the case of the French estate—the first estate purchased and sold by them—the Land Commission retained as a guarantee deposit £1,217 out of a total purchase price of £9,395, on the grounds of insufficient security, notwithstanding the fact that in the case of the French estate one-third of the entire area was unencanted land, for which a grazing tenant had been paying £122 10s. a year, while the rental of the tenanted portion was £900 a year; that is to say, the annual value of the unencanted land on the French estate was about one-third of the rental. The entire was sold to the tenants at sixteen years' purchase of the rental; notwithstanding this low price the Land Commission retained £1,217, as already stated, out of a total of £9,395. The Board considered when they had acted in that way in connection with the French estate—which was in comparison with Clare Island a very good one, that they would practically decline to advance anything in connection with Clare Island.

2443. Does it come to this, they advanced £1,217 short?—Yes, of the sale price of the holdings.

2444. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Retaining it as a guarantee?—Yes.

2445. The CHAIRMAN.—£1,217, which would otherwise have come to you as the landlord?—Yes.

2446. Are they still retaining that?—No; the Board got an Act passed the year after to get over this difficulty, authorising the Land Commission to accept from the Congested Districts Board a guarantee that they would make good any default arising from the repayments of the annuities to the extent to which it would be made good if the guarantee were retained. That is to say, they accepted a formal guarantee that they would make good any deficiency instead of returning the money against the deficiency.

2447. Therefore if that had been the estate of the law at the time you bought the French estate instead of you having £1,000 in cash deducted from what was due to you you would have been paid in full by the Land Commission, as you would have practically pledged yourself to that extent to them?—Yes, that is now the law. The Board guarantee all their operations, so as to save the Land Commission from the loss that would result from the annuitants failing to pay what they had agreed to pay.

The Commission adjourned.

SIXTH PUBLIC SITTING.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 1906.

AT 10.30 O'CLOCK A.M.

At 35, Dawson-street, Dublin.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUDLEY, G.C.V.O. (Chairman); The Right Hon. Sir ANTONY MACDONNELL, G.C.B.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMER, K.C., M.G.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BEYCE, Esq., M.P.; CONOR O'KEELY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., B.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.

WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. HENRY DORAN further examined.

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2440. The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. DORAN, last night, I think, when we rose you were telling us about the financial arrangements with regard to the purchase of Clare Island?—Yes, my lord.

2441. Will you continue from that point?—I gave to you the cost price of the estate and the amount expended in work, and the net cost price after deducting the amount of rent collected within the period that the Board had the estate on hand. That net cost was £10,547, for an estate that only cost £5,656.

2442. You said you spent £10,000 on an estate which originally cost you £5,000?—The Board spent £3,568. They collected from rent and arrears £3,514, leaving the net cost of the estate £10,547. When the Board were in a position to sell the estate the Land Commission had no power to make an advance to the tenant of a "small holding" on the estate owned by the Congested District Board, that is, they had no power to make an advance to a tenant if his rateable value was less than £10; consequently they could not at that time sell more than about twelve of the holdings on Clare Island.

2443. I am sorry to interrupt you, but did that disability apply to ordinary landlords?—No.

2444. Only to the Congested District Board as landlord?—Yes; only to the Congested District Board as landlord. No advance could be made to enable a tenant to purchase a "small holding" from the Congested District Board, and a "small holding" was defined as one with a rateable value of less than £10.

2445. Then the Congested District Board, as a landlord, were in a position of great difficulty as compared to any other landlord in Ireland?—Yes. The intention of the Legislature apparently was to oblige the Board to raise the holdings that they were dealing with to that standard; but the same Act made no provision to enable them to do that. So the enactment brought the Board into an impossible position, inasmuch as they could buy estates in whole, but they could not sell through the Land Commission any holdings under £10 rateable value, and, as I have just said, the Land Acts under which they were operating did not make sufficient provision to enable them to get land to raise the small holdings to a £10 standard. The conditions made operations by the Board impossible on a large scale.

2446. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Was that the Act of 1903?—This was the Act of 1906.

2447. The conditions are different in the last Land Act, are not they?—Yes.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—That is what I wanted.

2448. The CHAIRMAN.—But what you are talking of is the passing of the 1906 Act, is it not?—Yes. I am talking of the time the Board were dealing with Clare Island, an estate they had purchased with their own funds, and explaining to the Commission the difficulties which the Legislature placed in their way to dispose of property purchased by them, for they found it impossible in practice to comply with the condition which obliged them to raise the holdings to a £10 standard.

2449. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Mr. DORAN, that

restriction is under the 1896 Act, which states that when land is purchased by the Congested Districts Board for the benefit of more than one congested district, the Board shall make a request to the Land Commission for portion of the money, which is to be treated as an advance for the benefit of such estates, but the Land Commissioners shall not make any advance in respect of any purchase from the Board of a small holding as defined in the Purchase of Land Act, 1891?—That is what I mean. The Board were operating under the Act of 1891, which defines a small holding. At the end of it you will find the definition. A small holding is to be a holding of less than £10 rateable value.

2450. The CHAIRMAN.—You were trying to settle Clare Island before the Act of 1896 was passed, were not you?—Yes; the Board had bought the estate before the Act of 1896 passed, but they were unable to sell it till the Act had passed.

2451. Was the Act had passed?—Yes.

2452. Is the Bishop correct in thinking that it was the provisions of the Act of 1896 which hampered your operations?—Yes; the provisions of the Act of 1896.

2453. Then, how does it arise that the Act of 1896 gave you power, as you have just said, to sell, and also hampered you at the same time. The thing would seem contradictory?—That is exactly what it is. Under the provisions of the Act the Board found it impossible to make any satisfactory progress. They bought Clare Island with their own funds under the Act of 1891.

2454. Sir ANTONY MACDONNELL.—Under the Act of 1891?—Under the powers which were vested in them under the Act of 1891.

2455. Powers vested in them to buy?—To buy land in the interest of agriculture.

2456. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Together with the amending Act of 1903?—Yes.

2457. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—With regard to rateable value I want to know, Mr. DORAN, is not it the case that the rateable value of land was fixed over forty years ago?—Yes.

2458. Is it not the case that since then there has been no revision, and can be no revision of the rateable value of land?—That is so in respect of land, but the valuation of a holding will vary with the value of the buildings on it. If a holding had no building on it when valued, and a house was put upon it the valuation of the holding would be increased in respect of the building.

2459. Quite so. To raise the rateable value of land from £4 to £10 you must add to the £4 holding, land, either in bits or in bulk, equivalent to £6 in order to reach the £10 rateable standard. Is not that so?—Yes.

2460. But on a holding where the rateable valuation is £4 for land and house, if you improve or rebuild the house so as to make it valued at £6 more, although you don't increase the economic value of the land you increase the rateable value to £10; that is, if you add to a house such an amount of buildings or out-offices as to raise the value of the £4 holding by £6, then it would be assumed that

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that was a £30 holding, would it not, and it would then become a £30 holding?—If you added £4 worth of land?

2455. First of all take the land separately?—Yes.
2456. The land is stereotyped in its value. Yes, and there is no means of altering it?—No.

2457. And, therefore, to raise the valuation of the land, supposing there was no house—to make it clear—the £4 holding you can only raise that to £10 valuable value by adding to the £4 holding land of the value of £6, is not that so?—Yes.

2458. But, on the other hand, if you take a holding with a house on the land, and you alter that house so as to increase the value of the house by £5 a year; then, although you have not increased the land you have raised the holding from a £4 holding to £10?—Yes. That would be a very extreme case, because a person occupying a £4 holding, would not be likely to erect buildings that would be valued at £6.

2459. That was merely to illustrate?—But he might for instance, put up a business house on a £4 holding.

2460. The CHAIRMAN.—I see that all the difficulties that you labour under are set out in one of those Congested District Board reports, and therefore, perhaps, it is only waste of time to ask you to explain them?—They are set out in the Reports.

2461. But I understand that what happened is roughly that you bought, thinking that you had the power under the Act of 1881 to acquire estates. You purchased the French estate?—Yes.

2462. That then your power was questioned, and you were advised legally that you had no power under the Act of 1881?—Yes.

2463. Then the Act of 1895 was passed to give you the power that you required?—That is so.

2464. That the financial arrangements under the Act of 1895 were unsatisfactory, and the Act of 1894 had to be passed to help you in that, especially with regard to the guarantee deposit?—Yes; those difficulties are all set out in my Memorandum. But then the Act of 1896 prohibited the Land Commission from making an advance to enable a tenant to become a purchaser of a "small holding."

2465. Would you say that again?—The Act of 1896 prohibited the Land Commission from making an advance to a tenant on the Board's estate, of a holding, the rateable value of which did not exceed £10—to enable him to purchase his holding from the Board. And I suggest that that was obviously introduced into the Act with a view to compelling the Board to create economic holdings, that is, taking £10 as the standard; while it made no provision whatever to enable them to do that, to give them the necessary powers to get more land, or to compulsorily migrate people, or anything of that kind.

2466. I put it to you from another point of view. Of course, you know the history and I do not, but it seems to me possible that the view taken was this. The Act of 1895, as I understand it, first enabled you to obtain money from the Land Commission for the purchase of the landlord's interest in an estate. Is not that so?—Yes.

2467. Previous to that Act of 1895 you had to buy the landlord out with your own money?—Yes.

2468. The Act of 1895 gave you for the first time power to obtain money from the Land Commission to purchase an estate?—Yes.

2469. It also at the same time made certain provisions, did it not, for discharging the guarantee deposit?—That was done by the Act of 1894.

2470. Is not it possible that the Government of the day took the view that, while it gave power to you to borrow from the Land Commission money for the purpose of buying these estates, and also for getting free to some extent of the guarantee deposit, that it thought it necessary, as a security to the State—I disavow it was a mistaken view—that money should only be advanced to tenants of over £10 valuation in order to secure the Board against loss?—Yes; but that restriction was confined to holdings on estates owned by the Board.

2471. Remembering that there was no guarantee deposit?—But although the Land Commission did not retain the guarantee deposit the Board were obliged to give a guarantee from their own funds to the extent that such deposit would be retained by the Land Commission on the ground of insufficient security. They were obliged, in other words, if the Land Commission did not hold back any of the

money, to give a guarantee for the amount they would retain in the absence of the guarantee. In order to liberate the money which the Land Commission considered that holdings were insufficient security for, the Board had to give a guarantee, which was in the form of a resolution by the Board, that they became responsible for any deficiency which might result from defaulting annuitants to the extent which the guarantee deposit would cover.

2472. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—And that holds good to the present day?—To the present day, but in another form.

2473. And, therefore, the Board is in that respect in a less advantageous position than ordinary landlords who sell?—Yes, you are every day mortgaging your credit to the Land Commission, because you have to guarantee the repayment of the annuities of holdings sold by the Board.

2474. The CHAIRMAN.—That is optional, is not it?—No; it is not optional.

2475. Are the Land Commissioners bound?—They could decline to make the advance.

2476. Are they bound to ask for such a guarantee?—They do it.

2477. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And do you consider that it is in your power to give such a guarantee?—It is.

2478. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you know that the Land Commission are bound to ask for such a guarantee?—I think they are if they have any doubt as to the security of a holding.

2479. Surely, then, it is quite reasonable for the State to say, "If we discharge you from any obligation of guarantee, then you must not advance money to a tenant whose security is not good." I—I don't object to it. I think it is a fair working arrangement, but that it ought to be more limited than it is. The Board are always quite ready to guarantee for a limited period.

2480. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Was not it under legislation antecedent to 1895 that the Board was allowed to give its annual income as a guarantee for the payment of instalments?—Under the Act of 1894.

2481. After the enactment of the 1895 Act the difficulty existed about sale to small holders?—Yes.

2482. The Board in years immediately following 1895 were not in a position to sell to small landlords under the Land Commission even by pledging their interest?—No.

2483. That was one of the reasons why the Board sold directly to the tenants and not through the Land Commission?—That was one reason, and another was the reason I stated last evening, which was supplementary to that, that they considered that the Land Commission would probably advance only a very small proportion of the purchase money of the holdings, and they consequently decided to sell the estate direct to the tenants.

2484. Mr. BAKER.—May I ask you if you think there is any practical inconvenience in the guarantee, Mr. Doran?—The only inconvenience that may possibly arise is that it will affect the credit of the Board. The Board have a million and a half of money.

2485. Their present commitments?—No; but they have a million and a half of capital on which they work, from which they derive their main income, and that will be affected by this guarantee given in connection with sale transactions.

2486. The credit will only be affected, will it not, as soon as there is failure to pay annuities on the part of the tenants?—But the guarantees stand against the credit of the Board.

2487. I am quite aware of that?—And if the Treasury take the view that they will hold the Board to the guarantees during the whole period of the repayment of the advances, the Board's credit would be seriously reduced.

2488. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—What do you mean by credit?—The Board does not go into the open market to borrow money?—What do you mean by the Board's credit?—The Board have a million and a half of capital at their command. When they give these guarantees securing the repayment of the annuities of holdings sold by them, their capital of a million and a half is the property to which that guarantee is applied; that is to say, that it is from that sum of a million and a half that any deficiency would have to be met.

Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Is not it rather from the interest of the million and a half which the Board receive, and from which, if there were default in payment of annuities, the Treasury might demand to be recouped, that is, might demand that the annuities

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should be made good; so that it is not the credit of the Board that would be affected, but the ready money would be diminished. The Board has no credit as apart from the general administration of the country. Is not that so?

MR. FRANCIS MOWATT.—Yes; but it is, I think, a little academic.

MR. BRYCE.—That is why I asked the question. It is academic altogether.

2513. MR. KAVANAGH.—How much do you consider you have pledged already?—The Secretary will be able to tell that. I could not give the figure.*

2514. You could give a guess?—I would not like to make a guess.

Is it not the fact that if it in anywise happened that there began to be default, the thing that would have to be given is merely a paper guarantee payment—one body guaranteeing the other. I don't see where the practical inconvenience comes, or why it is necessary to have much discussion about it.

SIR ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The Land Act of 1903, Sections 80 and 81, says that "where an application is made to the Land Commission for an advance under the Land Purchase Act to a person purchasing any land from the Congested District Board, and that Board certify that the land is, in their opinion, sufficient security for the repayment of the advance, the Land Commission shall sanction the advance." And again, "if at any time the arrears of any purchase annuity payable in respect of an advance sanctioned in pursuance of a certificate of the Congested District Board are declared by the Land Commission to be irrecoverable, that Board shall pay out of the interest on the Church Surplus Grant to the Land Commission the amount of those arrears." There is no guarantee, but there is a certificate given, and that certificate is to that effect, that if default occurs in the payment of the annuity referred to by the certificate the amount in arrears is recoverable from the interest on the Church Surplus Grant.

THE CHAIRMAN.—Originally the Land Commission kept your money?

SIR ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—They held back the money at first. They first of all retained portion of the money as a guarantee deposit. Secondly, they paid away the money on getting from the Board what has been called a guarantee.

HON. REV. DR. O'DONNELL.—Therefore the only point in the matter beyond what is merely academic is this, that the Board has in addition to its annual grant a fixed capital bearing interest, and that when these small purchasers make default, if ever they do, in repaying their instalments, the Land Commission can dock the Congested District Board of so much of its annual interest payable out of this capital.

2515-6. THE CHAIRMAN.—Now, will you go on Mr. Doran?—Yes. The Board having decided to sell Clare Island directly to the tenants without the intervention of the Land Commission.—

2517. THE CHAIRMAN.—Just before you go on, there is one point which Sir Anthony says he would like to have developed. Supposing any tenants default in the payment of their annuities and the Land Commission come down upon the Congested Districts Board on the guarantee which they have given, what power have the Board under that section which Sir Anthony has just read, what power have the Congested District Board of trying to recover from the tenant?—They could sell out the holding and go into possession, but of course, that would be a very extreme step.

2518. Can they do that after the financial transactions are all completed?—What the Land Commission would be obliged to do before they looked to the Board would be to offer the occupation interest of the tenant in open market, and the Board would then, if the money so realised did not suffice to meet the demand of the Land Commission, have to pay up the deficiency.

2519. SIR ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Have you had a case of that kind?—No; we never had a default in the payment of the annuities up to the present—not one.

2520. This procedure does not seem to contemplate any action by the Land Commission as against the defaulting tenant? Does it contemplate that when there is a default on a receivable order the Land Commission goes down to the Board and says, "Make good this default"?—I understood, Sir Anthony, that

they took the ordinary means to realise their debt first, and that in the event of that failing to realise the amount they required, the Board is to pay it.

2521. There has not been any case of default?—No. I have now got from the Secretary the total amount of the guarantees given by the Board.

2522. MR. KAVANAGH.—That is already guaranteed?—Yes; £230,818; so they look serious on paper.

2523. SIR FRANCIS MOWATT.—Then the capital sum against which that is a liability is how much?—£235,864. Now may I close this matter and proceed? The Board having decided to sell to the tenants direct, without the intervention of the Land Commission, looked into the financing by the Land Commission in connection with the decadal reduction system. That is to say, suppose a holding was sold to a tenant for £100, he repaid that £100 by an annuity for the first ten years of 24; for the second decade an annuity of £3 10s. 7d.; for the third decade an annuity of £3 18s. 9d. After that, till the balance of the advance was paid under the Land Commission procedure the occupier would have to pay an annuity of £2 10s. 5d. for the remainder of the period.

2524. For a period of sixty-eight and a half years?—Yes. It would work out at about sixty-eight and a half years. The Land Commission declined to fix definitely the number of years; but the Board, having got actuarial calculations made, satisfied themselves that these decadal reductions were really equivalent to a uniform annuity during a period of sixty-eight and a half years, of 2½ per cent. So they decided to sell the holdings direct to the tenants of Clare Island at a uniform annuity of 2½ per cent.—the same mode of financing subsequently adopted in the Act of 1905. They did this in order that the tenants might have their holdings in their improved condition subject to as low an annuity as could be arranged, and at the same time to cover as much of the capital which they expended as they considered reasonable. The effect of this was that they lost on Clare Island a sum of £289, exclusive of the interest on the purchase money of £5,000, which they had paid—that is for the four years they had it in hands.

2525. That is about 17 per cent. excluding the interest?—Yes. Then considering that the tenants' former rents were £233, and the Poor Law Valuation £207, and that after an expenditure of £2,528 on improvement work, the tenants got their improved holdings at annuities amounting to £214, as against the former rent of £233, the Board were satisfied that they were enabled to confer very substantial advantages on the tenants without disproportionate loss to their funds. The large expenditure made upon the island, I should like to point out, was earned exclusively by the tenants, so that they had the advantage of earning the money that was expended in the improvement of the holdings subsequently sold to them.

2526. MR. BRYCE.—Do you not consider, Mr. Doran, that that is a very important point when you talk of the loss involved in that operation; that a great part of that loss really is applied to the benefit of the inhabitants of the particular estates?—Yes.

2527. That and the Dillon estates, for instance; so that we ought to bear in mind in talking of these losses, and hearing of them, that really a great part of the money represented by those losses has gone into the pockets of the people for whose benefit the operations have been undertaken?—Practically all, except in the case of holdings, the cost of timber and roofing and skilled labour.

2528. MR. KAVANAGH.—And also it has been a benefit to the estate?—Oh, of course; a very substantial benefit to the estate.

2529. And permanent?—And permanent. Several of the tenants on the island who had no stock when the Board took up the place saved some of their earnings during the period the Board were carrying on work. Some bought several sheep, and others bought a heifer or two in the hope of getting into stock. The Board, when the operations were completed, advanced to people who had not sufficient stock sums not exceeding £15 to purchase additional stock for their holdings, in order to give them a fair start. Those loans have all been punctually repaid by the Clare Islanders, and no loss incurred; and there has been very little difficulty in collecting the instalments, although these people who got the loans were practically paupers.

* See answer to questions 2511-2.

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2520. Mr. BUTTE.—And not only so, but up to the time when you began your operations they had been refusing to pay rents or taxes?—Rent or taxes. The fact is that if you saw Clare Island as I saw it when I was first an inspector for the Board, you would be forced to the conclusion that even an ordinary well-disposed person on the island could not pay his way, because their tenure was of the very worst possible kind. Their crops were not protected as I explained yesterday, and a man who paid £5 rent was really not able to get any more out of his holding than the man that only paid £2 rent, for the reason that there were no fences to protect what was called his holding. The whole place was in such a state of chaos that in my opinion it was impossible for the bulk of the people to pay their way. Now, since it has been re-arranged in the way that I pointed out yesterday, and that each man has his own share of the cultivable or partly cultivable land on the island enclosed by a sufficient fence, and the right to graze a specified number of stock on the commonage which covers two-thirds of the island, the people have settled down to make the most of their improved circumstances, and up to the present time not one of them has failed to pay his annuity although their holdings have been sold to them now for five or six years.

2521. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—May I ask you a simple question. What are the other industries of Clare Island?—None. No other industries except what they make from kelp, and in my opinion the people of Clare Island, if they had better means of transport for getting away the surplus produce from the island to market, would be quite well able to live on the island without fishing.

2522. No fishing?—They have land enough to live upon if they had improved facilities for marketing the produce and for the sale of their stock.

2523. Is there no fishing?—No, sir, there is no fishing worth talking about, except that they get coarse fish for food round the rocks.

2524. Who has the fishing?—They are near the fishing ground, but there is no harbour on the island in which any boat that cannot be hauled up on the shore would be safe.

2525. The CHAIRMAN.—I see that the holdings were changed to an average of 25 13s. 4.—The island was sold to seventy-six tenants, the poor law valuation being £567, and the average valuation of the holdings 25 13s. 4.

2526. So that in Clare Island, 25 13s. was your standard valuation of economic holdings?—Well, we gave them all we had, and, in my opinion, many of those 25 13s. holdings in Clare Island are, with few exceptions, economic if they had reasonable facilities for the marketing of their surplus produce, and for the marketing of their live-stock. The Board has, for a few years, sent the Board's steamer there once a year to take away their stock for the November fair at Westport, and the tenants have all availed themselves of it, and sell their stock in November. Previous to that they had to take out all their stock in small boats, and really it is most surprising how frequent fatal accidents. If they wanted to bring a bullock or heifer to market, they would have to tie it down in a boat and row out sometimes in comparatively rough weather. The week before Westport fair, very often they had to take out seventy or eighty cattle in that way, and thirty or more foals, and other animals besides. It is quite a dangerous proceeding. If the Board ceases to give them the use of the steamer it will be a serious drawback to them, because if the weather happens to become rough before the fair they could not get out their stock, and they would miss the fair.

2527. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—How do they get their stock on board the steamer if there is no pier?—They swim them out from the shore to where the steamer lies at anchor. The steamer cannot get out to the quay; and they have to swim the cattle up to the steamer, and then each beast is hauled up with a crane from the water and dropped into the water again on the other side near the shore, and after undergoing that treatment they have to be sold next day.

2528. Sir JAMES CONNOR.—That is like landing forces in the army. Has the steamer special appliances for that?—Oh, yes; it has a boat and a band of canvas is put around the boat that is to be hoisted up.

2529. That is quite common with horses in the army?—Quite common.

2530. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—And that is what you are alluding to as reasonable facilities?—Yes. The Board are now the owners of practically all the islands on the west coast; that is, Inishboffin, Inishark, Inishurk, Clare Island, Inishan Island, Arranmore, in Donegal, and Tory Island. They have, within the last few years, purchased all those islands, and I think it is of the greatest importance, if the people are to remain on them, that they should have reasonable facilities for the safe transport of their live-stock to and from the mainland.

2531. Would you consider that a couple of visits a year of the steamer to that island would afford them all reasonable facilities for the transport of their stock?—I would.

2532. And you consider their present holdings, as practices, economic?—I would.

2533. How do they get the unsold stock back?—By the steamer, which waits till after the fair, and takes them back. It charges them a small rate.

2534. Mr. KAVANAGH.—I suppose they would almost take any price rather than bring them back?—That was the case. After these beasts had been treated as you have heard described, having swum out to a boat, and then cast out on the opposite side, and swum ashore, you can very well understand that the animals did not look very fresh the next day in the fair, and when there was not an active demand for cattle at Westport, those Clare Island people were very often left alone, and then in the evening, some cute persons, would get good bargains from them. But now, when they have the steamer to take back the cattle if they don't get them sold, they are much stiffer at the fair, and hold out for better prices.

2535. And they actually will bring them back?—Yes; they do now. There has been quite a remarkable improvement in the cattle on Clare Island, owing to the fact that they have got through the Board good bulls, and I should say that since the Board bought the island the value of yearlings has increased fifty per cent. They used not to get more than 25 for them, and now 25 is quite an ordinary price.

2536. The CHAIRMAN.—Still, I don't understand why these holdings should be economic in Clare Island and uneconomic in Mayo. Is it because the land is better in Clare Island or that the people work harder and are better farmers?—No; I can't say that they are good farmers.

2537. What is the reason that accounts for this difference?—I think that an economic holding is one which you cannot fix exactly at £30. A £30 holding may be as economic in one place as a £20 holding in another.

2538. But there is some reason for it, is not there?—There are many reasons. The £25 holding in Clare Island will feed more stock than a £10 holding inland. Owing to the difficulties of marketing the produce of their land and getting their food supplies and all that, a very large deduction had to be taken off what would be a fair rent under normal conditions, when fixing a fair rent for a place like Clare Island.

2539. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is the commonage included in the calculation?—Oh, yes; the commonage is included in the calculation.

2540. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—To put that in other words, would it be that if the ordinary facilities of an inland holding existed in Clare Island, the holding, which is now valued at 25 13s., would practically be a £10 holding?—Yes, that is the deduction from my statement. An ordinary fair rent would be one fixed under what might be called normal conditions as regards proximity to markets and situation and other conditions affecting the value of the produce. In this case the place is quite exceptionally circumstanced as regards remoteness and inconvenience. I gave you the number of cattle which the people had at the last Census taken by the Board.*

2541. Sir JAMES CONNOR.—I want to ask a question, and I will go back. Now you have got at this number which you give in your Memorandum of stock at the time they were being landed?—Yes.

2542. And landed by the Board?—Yes.

2543. Now, could you make an approximate estimate of the value of that stock?—Yes.

2544. Could you now simplify that account of the stock by putting down what you consider a fair average price. I made it to be over £3,000 in value. Could you hand in a statement of what fair value

* See p. 305.

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you thought could be approximately put upon this stock, so that we may see what is the approximate total value, because it is very important in this case. Taking my own ideas of the great depreciation of stock, I make it out to be that, taking seventy-six tenants, and over £3,000 worth of stock, it works out at an average of six times the value of each man's holding?—Probably you are right, Sir John. It is in accordance with my statement that a £6 15s. holding on this island would feed much more stock than a holding at £6 13s. rent fixed under normal conditions.

2545. It is not a question of whether I am right, but I only want to know if you can hand in to the Commission a statement giving that approximately?—Yes.*

2547. One or two other questions. You made it a condition, didn't you, that the tenants should pay within six months a substantial portion of their rent?—Of their arrears.

2548. And you estimate the average amount of arrears due as about two years?—The amount to be accepted in discharge of arrears due.

2549. Now, was that a condition precedent—did they understand that the condition of paying up a substantial portion of their arrears was precedent to your operating on the place?—No; we started the works at once. I explained to them, by directions of the Board, the general scheme which it was proposed to apply for the treatment and settlement of the island, and I appealed to them to co-operate, and I said "The Board are going to press you to pay two years' rent, which seems rather hard, perhaps, but you can earn it by making fences on lands which are to be your own, and the final result will be that instead of taking it out of your pockets it will come out of your arms for your own benefit."

2550. And the result was that the value of the labour which could be given in six months was equivalent to about two years' rent?—Not quite.

2551. I mean about that?—Some of them sold their surplus stock to supplement their earnings.

2552. And did you keep to the six months—was that understanding fairly kept by the tenants—did you get that money in within the six months?—Not all within the six months; whenever we found a man who made a fair case for time we gave him the time he wanted.

2553. But did the vesting order operate before they completed the discharge of their obligations?—No; no tenant got the ownership of his holding till he had completed all the obligations put upon him, which they all did satisfactorily, having regard to their circumstances.

2554. You told us that six years elapsed from the date of the purchase of the estate till the completion of the sale?—Yes.

2555. By the date of purchase I suppose you mean the date of getting the sanction of the Land Commission?—This estate was bought in the Land Judges' Court, and was vested in the Board immediately after the purchase.

2556. And it was not for six years that you were in a position to give a vesting order or whatever you call it to the tenants?—It could have been sold a year earlier.

2557. Was the six years the necessary time required to put the island in such order that you could convey it to the tenants, or were there other reasons that prevented your completing the operations sooner?—We could not, with the available men on the island, carry out all the works in a shorter period than four and a half years. They had to attend to the cropping of the land so well.

2558. And from your knowledge you do not attribute any part of the delay to the insufficiency of the staff or machinery of the Congested Districts Board?—Well, at this time we were only beginning to deal with estates, and there was really nobody on the Estates staff but myself, and a clerk of works who resided on the island.

2559. Is it not so, that whenever you take up an estate in this middle, that inevitably, with all the alterations of the law and everything else to clear up the legal part of it, there must be a considerable time elapse between the purchase and the completion?—Yes, as estate which needs very much alteration cannot be dealt with in a shorter period than two or three years even under the most favourable conditions.

2561. However, you facilitate the legal arrangements, necessarily there must be very considerable delay?—Yes; but if the Board had sufficient powers, capital, and staff to undertake a much larger volume of work than they can now attempt, they could deal with a large area at the same time, and therefore reasonable delay would not preclude the settlement of the whole area to be dealt with.

2562. You mean that if the staff of the Department was sufficient to deal simultaneously all over the area instead of in succession?—Quite, or even a substantial part of the area.

2563. There is one point I want to ask you. This condition of things in Clare Island you found on a property you purchased from a proprietor who had no power to alter it?—We purchased in the Land Judges' Court. It was sold really by the mortgagees, an Insurance Company.

2564. Putting my question in that way I think misled you, for this state of things is handed down from past times, but is it not the fact that since 1831 owing to the Act of 1831 no landlord, no matter what his capital, or his energy, or anything else, could deal with the property as you deal with it under your Purchase of Land Act?—Well, there was no landlord in the West of Ireland before the Land Act or since the Land Act who attempted to do anything of the kind in the development of his estate. In fact very few of them resided in the country for any considerable portion of the year.

2565. That may be unfortunate. However, I am not asking you that, but since 1831 no landlord could have attempted it?—No landlord attempted it since 1831, and no landlord did it before 1831 in the West of Ireland. Some stripping was done, but no extensive or systematic scheme of development was attempted.

2566. Is not it the case that in these congested places and out-of-the-way places the circumstances and traditions and habits of the people made it impossible for a landlord to face the task of attempting to put holdings on a more economic basis than that described?—My opinion is that the average landlord could have done a great deal to ameliorate the condition of his tenants, but very few tried. He could not have done it without incurring a substantial loss, and very few landlords were disposed to apply any of their income to the development of their estates or to the improvement of the condition of their tenantry, especially when they were in a sham condition.

2567. The landlord contemplated that in addition to incurring the loss he had to face the certainty that he was going against the customs and traditions of the people, and, therefore, that aggravated his difficulty?—Yes, I have no doubt that many a landlord would be deterred from undertaking work of the kind from the knowledge that a great many of the people holding their land in this unsatisfactory manner are opposed to any change. They would prefer to remain as they are; and the landlord might feel, especially if owner of a poor estate, that he would get very little thanks and no profit by his interference. That may have been the only reason which deterred well-disposed landlords from undertaking the task. I am stating the facts rather than theorising upon them, when I say that the owners of poor estates did practically nothing to develop or improve them.

2568. Now, a final question. Is it fair to draw the conclusion that the Congested Districts Board was able to do what the landlord did not, or possibly could not do, by the fact that the people knew that great benefits would accrue to them, that they would become owners, that you could offer them great advantages, that the knowledge that the Government had behind them the Bank of England inspired hope, and they trusted you to do, and allowed you to do what a private landlord, however willing, would have found very difficult?—That is quite so. They knew the Board's only object was to benefit them, while there might be a suspicion entertained towards even a very excellent landlord that it was his interest to make a little out of them.

2569. Mr. O'Keefe.—Would you explain what you meant when you said in reply to Sir John Colomb that if a landlord undertook the improvement of his estate he would be going against the traditions and habits of the people?—I understood Sir John to refer to what I regard as a general fact in connection with such estates, that a considerable portion of the older tenants who hold their lands under the unfavourable

* See page 154.

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and unsatisfactory conditions that we have been discussing have an objection to have things altered. We frequently find some crinkly person who will refuse under any circumstances to allow any changes to be made in the holdings. A considerable proportion of the older tenants do not desire a change, and a landlord may have found it a most thankless and unprofitable venture to have attempted to do with his tenants what the Board have done in Clare Island.

2570. But, thankless or unprofitable, don't you think it was the duty of the landlord?—Well, I don't think you ought to pay me to go into that.

2571. But don't you think a considerable improvement might have been made in those holdings that you found to be equalled without moving the tenants, or changing them from one part of the property to the other?—A great deal of good could be done except in cases where the holdings were held under extremely bad conditions.

2572. Where the tenure was complicated?—There are a great many estates not at all bad as those I pointed out yesterday, where the landlord could have done a great deal at comparatively little expense, and where he didn't do anything.

2573. Don't you think that if the landlord attempted to carry out reasonable improvements these would not have been any insuperable obstacles in the traditions and habits of the people?—Oh, no; and I don't think Sir John suggested that.

Sir JOHN COLVILLE.—Oh, no; prior to 1881.

2574. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What was there in the Land Act of 1881 to discourage improvements on the part of the landlord?—If he improved the estate before 1881 he could increase the rent to cover his outlay. Since the passing of the Act of 1881 the increased value of the land resulting from the landlord's outlay on improvements would be assessed, not by him, but by the Land Commission, and he did not consider, I suppose, that it was prudent to expend money if the value of the improvement resulting from the application of his outlay was to be fixed by the Land Commission.

2575. In fact it stopped the improvements he used to carry out before the Act?—Very few of the western landlords carried out any improvements—very few. All the houses that you see through the West of Ireland have been put up by the people themselves. Every fence has been put up by the people themselves. The only Estate works, that even a good landlord was expected to do, were to make a useful main drain, or accommodation road. If a landlord gave some timber for roofing from a plantation on the estate, or some favour of that kind, you would hear a great deal about it, and he would be given more credit for it than he ought to expect. The landlords of the West of Ireland, generally speaking, with very few exceptions, never spent a shilling they could avoid in the development of their estates.

That is clear from the heritage they left to your Board.

2577. Mr. O'KEEFE.—What was there in the Act of 1881 to discourage improvement on the part of the tenants?—The Act of 1881 gave every encouragement.

2578. And do you know that many a man, who made an improvement in his holding, made it in the fear possibly that such improvements would result in his rent being increased?—Well, the Act certainly did not contemplate that, and, in fact, contains what were considered sufficient provisions to secure to the tenant the value of his improvements. Where a tenant's rent was being revised, the holding was valued in its present condition by the Land Commission, and then, from the estimated present value was deducted the value of the improvements the tenant legally proved he and his predecessors in title had made.

The CHAIRMAN.—I don't want to interrupt you, but I think we are wandering rather far away from the original question.

2579. The CHAIRMAN.—Is that all you want to tell us about Clare Island?—Yes.

2580. Mr. BRYCE.—Just before you leave this case of Clare Island. Do I understand that you consider it a very interesting case, is showing what the effect of the operations of the Board in the improvement of properties may be to convert what was called the lawless and thriftless population in the old days into a law-abiding, thrifty and industrious population now?—I think I am entitled to present it to you in that way. That has been the result of the Board's work.

2581. It is a striking case, I think, you considered?—It is a striking case. One thing further I would like to add is that the tenants want more assistance from the Board, or from some other source towards fitting them to make the most of their land, to employ better methods of husbandry; and other matters that are referred to in my memorandum under the head of agricultural development.

2582. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—But would you not go further in explanation, and say, that with the progress of land purchase and sale, and the acquisition of a proprietary interest in their holdings by tenants, not only in the congested districts, but throughout Ireland, are synonymous with the commencement of a new lease for these tenants, with the growth of industry, the practice of thrift, and the avoidance of everything like apathy? Unless land purchase has that effect it will be more or less of a failure.

2583. But has not it had that effect wherever the Land Purchase Act has extended?—Yes, to a very large extent, but not to the extent which it might have if it were followed up by an effort on the part of the Government, to help, educate, and induce the people to manage their land better through the agency of well-considered agricultural development schemes throughout the whole country.

2584. Mr. BRYCE.—You don't think enough is being done in that way at present?—Practically nothing has been done. The Department of Agriculture has charge of that.

2585. They do not follow you up?—They do not follow as up as they ought. They do not follow us up practically. They have done a good deal in the matter of live stock, but in the poorer districts of Ireland the result of their efforts is not appreciable.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—We shall have an opportunity of hearing the Board of Agriculture.

2586. The CHAIRMAN.—Yes, certainly. Can you tell us—can you give us some examples, can you tell us what they ought to have done?—Yes, I can. For instance, the Board re-arrange the rural holdings on the properties they purchase, and give the tenant their new holdings in as convenient a manner as possible under the circumstances. In the case of crowded villages some houses are removed and new houses built. Houses that were in a bad condition have been improved, and the general sanitary condition of the dwellings very much improved. But although the people on the properties dealt with by the Board have now got their share of the land in a manner that would enable them to make the most out of the land, they are getting no help either educational or in any other way to aid them or stimulate them in developing the new holdings, with the result that although, speaking generally, they are applying much more labour to them than they did formerly, yet it does not yield the remunerative results that it would if directed by skilled instructors. The Board's operations ought to be considered only the initial step in agricultural development. It is impossible to successfully apply development schemes to holdings held under a leasehold tenure like those shown coloured on that map, but when the lands are striped the Department of Agriculture should follow up the work of the Board immediately, and have no time in assisting the people to take full advantage of their better arranged holdings, and to apply themselves earnestly to the development of them, which would be an easy matter if suitable methods and schemes were adopted.

2587. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—In justice to the Department of Agriculture, is not it correct to say that up to a short time ago the Congested Districts Board considered itself charged with the duty of promoting agriculture and industries in the congested districts?—Yes.

2588. So that the understanding at all events—I won't say whether it was right or wrong—under which the Department of Agriculture worked, was that there was a Division of labour, the Congested Districts Board having to look after agriculture in the congested districts, while the Department was to concern itself with agriculture outside them. In or about two years ago, the agricultural duties which were performed by the Congested Districts Board were transferred to the Agricultural Department. So that your remarks would be applicable only for the last two years?—I would like it to be clearly understood that I am making no attack upon the Department. My complaints apply equally to the Agricultural Department of the Gov-

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joined Districts Board, and to the Department of Agriculture, that they did not follow up the development of the estates re-arranged by the Congested Districts Board. The Congested Districts Board had an Agricultural department of its own before the Department of Agriculture was formed, but no special attention was given to the Board's estates.

2539 Who was the head of the Board's agricultural department?—It was worked from the Land Commission by Mr. Wrench and Mr. Porter. They had schemes very much like what the Department of Agriculture have now, and they had itinerant instructors.

2540 Did they work agriculture or merely the stock part of it?—They worked both. They were successful in the improvement of cattle, but I do not consider they were successful at agricultural development. That is to say, the itinerant instructors did little or no good, although they were competent, experienced men.

2541 The CHAIRMAN.—Did the Board have itinerant instructors?—Yes. The Board had itinerant instructors, and the Department of Agriculture are now depending upon itinerant instructors, as far as I can see, for agricultural development. I refer to the matter because I think it is of vital importance to the poor districts that agricultural development should be taken up in a thorough and effective manner, and it is my opinion that an itinerant instructor has little or no influence upon the people of these poor areas.

2542 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What instructor?—It is an instructor. A man going round a large district usually on a bicycle, coming, say, to a particular townland every two or three months to tell the people how foolish they are not to manage their business in the way he describes, and then disappearing for another long interval.

2543 Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The responsibility for any ill success that has attended our labours is to be divided. Only for the last two or three years can we hold the Department of Agriculture responsible. I don't want to fix the responsibility at all. I would like to make that clear. I hope in any observations I make it will be clearly understood that I am making no imputations upon the Board or upon the Department of Agriculture, or upon Sir Horace Plunkett, of whom I may be allowed to say I declare myself to be a disciple. I am a thorough believer in his sincerity and his earnestness, and I agree with most of what he has said and done. I am, therefore, making no attack upon him. I am obliged to refer to the working of these agricultural departments for this reason—to put it shortly, that in my opinion the congested districts, as a whole, can be far more benefited through agricultural development than by migration, because over a considerable area of the congested districts, as I explained yesterday, migration does not appear to be practicable, while agricultural development can throughout the entire districts do a great deal of good if effective methods of instruction, organisation, &c., be applied in a manner that the people will respond to. There is no doubt of it. I believe it is no exaggeration to say that the value of the produce throughout the congested districts could be doubled. Not in quantity, perhaps, alone, but by better market facilities, better husbandry, the introduction of good seeds, and the other improvements I have enumerated in my Memorandum. That would be more than any migration scheme would accomplish.

Mr. O'KEEFE.—What is the interval between the appearance of an itinerant instructor in one parish and his re-appearance?—As you are Chairman of the Mayo Co. Council, and that the Department inform me that you have control of all these schemes, in your county, you ought to be able to answer that question. The Department could not give me any information as to the details of these county schemes. When I asked for details they referred me to the County Councils.

2544 Would two years be the interval?—I was hoping it would be only a couple of months at most, but I would like to have the instructor at the elbow of the man to be instructed every other day.

2545 Is it not a fact, Mr. Doran, that these itinerant instructors have contributed in no small way to discredit the work of the Department in many parts of the country?—I would not like to express any opinion on that. I am only justified in referring

to the matter at all, because I believe that if agricultural development be not taken up on sound lines and in a thorough manner involving a large expenditure of money, the agricultural resources of the country will remain undeveloped. The landholders in the poor districts will not get a fair chance of improving their condition, and will not be in a position to make a large number of their present holdings economic, which are now uneconomic.

2546 Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I think that is the opinion of the Department of Agriculture?—It is their desire, and has been over and over again impressed on me by Sir Horace Plunkett. I must say that in justice to him.

2547 Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—As dealing with the transformation of Clare Island, and the punctual repayment of instalments, were not the Board rightly or wrongly so appreciative in approaching the purchase of Clare Island that they took a money guarantee from the late Archbishop of Tuam and from Mr. William O'Brien for the repayment of these instalments in a certain number of years?—They took a guarantee which implied the payment of money in the event of the failure of the holders to meet their engagements.

2548 But the guarantees have not been called upon to pay up any amount?—No.

2549 The CHAIRMAN.—Was the Land Commission guaranteed by the Congested Districts Board and the Congested Districts Board guaranteed by Dr. McEvilly and Mr. O'Brien?—The Board bought Clare Island with its own funds and sold it direct to the tenants.

2550 Mr. O'KEEFE.—Is it not a fact that you would not have purchased Clare Island unless you yourselves got a collateral guarantee from the Most Rev. Dr. McEvilly and Mr. O'Brien?—I think they would not. But, at the same time, I think it was an insult to the people to distrust them to that extent.

2551 Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You would not approve of the transaction. But was it not a fact?—It was a fact, my lord.

2552 The CHAIRMAN.—Is there anything with regard to the Leonard estate?—I think you may pass over that.

2553 The CHAIRMAN.—I want you to go back for a moment to the French estate. I want you to tell us about this French estate. There is a Board's resolution applying for compulsory powers and additional funds?—Yes.

2554 Was the resolution passed by the Congested Districts Board in favour of compulsory powers caused by the difficulty which they had experienced with regard to the French estate?—No; but the result of their treatment of the French estate was considered by them to be so satisfactory that they desired to purchase other estates of a similar kind, but failed to get any for nearly two years, and in the meantime they passed this resolution, which, I believe, was read yesterday.

2555 The CHAIRMAN.—It was not, but this is it: "That the Congested Districts Board is in possession of information through its inspectors that there are large tracts of land that could be used to enlarge the holdings of small occupiers and procure schemes of migration in congested districts. The Board are, therefore, of the opinion that it will be impossible for them to give due effect to this important department of their work unless more funds are placed at their disposal, and compulsory powers given to them to acquire such lands at their just value." I want you to tell us the history of that resolution.* Did the Board find that there was difficulty in buying estates in general?—They could not get any, my lord. I was the Inspector at that time dealing with the land business, and during that interval the Board could not get any except the three estates I have described, which had been for a long time awaiting sale in the Land Judges' Court and could not be sold. The Board purchased them at a low price—the French estate, the Leonard estate, and Clare Island. These were all bought in the open market, but the Board were unable to enter into negotiations with the owners of any other estates.

2556 Was that because you had not enough money, or because they asked too much?—They could then have bought a few more estates with their own money, because they had not their funds so widely distributed as now.

* See page 5.

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2602. What was the reason you could not get those estates?—Because the owners were not disposed to offer them to the Board. The Board was a new body, and I think owners were doubtful as to how the Board would treat them in their negotiations. Now, the owners of properties have no objection whatever to enter into negotiations with the Board.

2603. And, as you say they do not offer estates unless you approach them and try and treat with them?—No; we do not approach them, except where I happened to learn either indirectly or through the agent that the landlord was disposed to sell. Many owners would consider it an impertinence if I were to ask them if they would sell their estates before they expressed their willingness to do so.

2604. Therefore the reason that the Board passed that resolution was because they thought it impossible to get hold of the estates which they wanted—the tenanted and untenanted land?—Yes. They found they could not get them, and if they were offered in large numbers they had no money to buy, so they also asked for more funds.

2605. As far as the tenanted land is concerned there is no difficulty like that at the present time?—Tenanted?

2606. You can get as much tenanted land as you want?—If we were able to deal with it quickly the Board ought to be in a position to buy more tenanted land than they have bought, but, as I pointed out yesterday, they think it is a mistake to buy more tenanted estates until they have secured more untenanted land to enlarge the small holdings.

2607. You told us two days ago that compulsory powers are needed at present in order to enable you to acquire grass lands?—Grass lands, yes.

2608. My point is this: is it the case that compulsion is needed now for a thoroughly different object from that which necessitated it when the resolution was passed?—No; identically the same object.

2609. The same object?—Yes. The Board wanted untenanted land then as well as now—the scheme that the Board have now in operation was what they had then, but they are now prepared to enter upon much larger transactions.

2610. I understand that in those days you could not get any land, tenanted or untenanted?—That was so.

2611. And the difficulty was to obtain an estate with tenanted and untenanted land upon it for the purpose of improvement?—Yes.

2612. Now I understand you can obtain a certain amount of land both tenanted and untenanted, and you can acquire a great deal of tenanted land, but you cannot acquire sufficient untenanted land, and therefore you need compulsion for that?—Yes.

2613. Is not that what I say—that there is a difference now is the necessity for compulsion?—I take this resolution to mean that the desire of the Board was to get compulsory powers to acquire suitable estates, that is estates comprised mainly or entirely of untenanted lands.

2614. Do you think this applied to tenanted land?—I think it applied mainly to untenanted land. But the resolution was freely drafted.

2615. What was the use at that time of having compulsory powers for the purchase of untenanted land if you could not get tenanted land as well?—The Board were seeking suitable estates, and they did not consider them suitable when they had not the means of enlarging the small holdings. The Board considered a suitable estate would be one comprised like the French estate. There, within the ambit of the estate, was tenanted and untenanted land. That would be quite a suitable estate. Another suitable class of estate would be a tenanted estate containing surplus untenanted land that they could apply to the improvement of tenanted properties. The whole trouble throughout was to get the remedy for congestion—to get untenanted land.

2616. Then as regards untenanted land—do you always wait until the landlord approaches you?—Yes, always. We have never caused any local trouble through failure of our negotiations. And when we failed the landlord has been ready to re-open negotiations with us.

Sir ARTHUR MACDONAGH.—I don't think you quite understand his Lordship's question.

2617. The CHAIRMAN.—You told us just now that you always waited for the landlord to approach you and offer his land, because you thought if you approached him he might consider it an impertinence?—Yes; I thought you said untenanted land.

2618. I asked you just now whether that was also your custom with regard to untenanted land?—Substantially it is; except that when I see land that suits the Board's purposes I endeavour to get into touch with the owner in some way. I try to find out indirectly whether he is disposed to sell, and then I write either to him or his agent asking whether the owner is willing to sell to the Board and, if so, in name the price.

2619. What is your practical experience to-day? Do you find that you have a great deal of difficulty in getting untenanted land?—Yes; especially when we want it most.

2620. And is the reason of that because the landlord will not sell at any price, or because the price is generally more than you can afford?—I would say that it was because he would not sell except he got more than the value of it; such a price as the Board would not give.

2621. He won't sell unless he gets a price which you cannot afford to give? When you mean untenanted land, do you mean land which is already in the hands of the landlord?—I prefer calling it non-residential land—non-residential holdings. We have in certain cases negotiated with an occupier who was a tenant-purchaser, and then redeemed the advance from the Land Commission, thereby acquiring the fee-simple. We have in other cases bought grass lands direct from the owner in fee when he had them let under temporary lettings, and got clear possession on the termination of the letting. And we have in a few cases bought the occupation interest of a tenant after we had learned from the landlord the price he would accept for the ownership in fee. We have also, in a few cases—very notable ones they have lately become, near Newry on the Stoney and O'Donnell estates—bought the tenant's interest in grass lands in anticipation of being able to acquire the ownership in fee.

The Board, having some of these farms in hand for five or six years, have been very severely censured for not disposing of them, though those who censure them have been informed more than once that the reason the Board had not disposed of them is that they are merely tenants and could not parcel them out, as they had not yet acquired the ownership in fee.

2622. Have you ever found that you have difficulty in getting the land, not only by reason of the landlord not wishing to sell or wanting to sell at a higher price than you could pay, but by reason of the tenant not wishing to sell his interest?—Well, we have proceeded very cautiously, and I can hardly give a satisfactory answer to that. We have opened negotiations with very few persons we have not dealt with. There are only a few cases where the Board made offers where they have not finally arranged to buy the land.

2623. You have not approached people unless you have some understanding that they would be likely to come to terms?—No.

2624. But surely the question of price is important. You would come to terms if the price would be satisfactory. But surely there must have been cases where you approached either the landlord or the tenant, and found that ultimately you could not come to terms as regards price?—Oh, yes. Not many, but there are some.

2625. Have you found difficulties, not only with the landlord, but with the tenant? Have you found that you could not buy out the tenant's interest at your price?—Yes, we have found it more difficult to deal with the tenant than the landlord.

2626. As far as the acquiring of land is concerned, your difficulty is not confined to one class?—Certainly not. I would say the tenant or tenant-purchaser would be much more unreasonable than the ordinary landlord. And if you are satisfied of the great urgency of providing land for the benefit of congested districts, and consider that you are justified in taking the land required, you must be prepared to apply compulsion not alone to the landlord, but to the tenant, tenant-purchaser, or other person having a claim upon the land.

2627. That is my point. The difficulty is not confined to one class. You have been in the habit of only approaching the people that you heard were likely to meet your terms. Your difficulties have been merely questions of price?—Yes.

2628. For the reasons I have just mentioned, you have never found yourself against a blank wall of absolute refusal to sell under any condition whatever?—We have never got that answer.

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2534. Because you never put yourself in the position to get it?—In a few cases the price demanded was a dead wall, for it was so much in excess of the price the Board would give.

2535. Have you come across cases in which people would say, "I don't care; I will stick to my land no matter what price you offer"?—No; nobody has given that answer.

2536. In fact in every case of failure to come to terms it is that they have asked a price which you could not offer?—Yes.

2537. Is there in those cases a very wide divergence between what these landlords or tenants asked and what you were able to give?—In some cases it was very wide, and in others it was not.

2538. In average cases where negotiations have failed, have you found the gap very wide?—Well, the gap varies a great deal in width. The Board have adopted the policy of making their offer the maximum price they will give; and as a rule the offer has been accepted. Those who have not accepted are persons who held out for a price that the Board considered they could not give.

2539. The price you considered impossible. Is that generally a long way from the price you consider reasonable?—Yes, a long way. The scheme of negotiation which I outlined yesterday could not be carried out by voluntary agreement. It is exemplified in this map. Every non-residential tenement in the county of over £250 poor law valuation is coloured green on that map.

2540. Don't go into that question now as to how much available land there is?—I was going to give it shortly. The Board has bought any of these grass farms that the owners offered, and the few they bought are edged red on this map. Now the difficulty of winding the schemes which I outlined yesterday is quite apparent. Unless the Board can take in a large area, instead of getting small patches here and there, they cannot open up the locality by making roads, nor can they drain or otherwise deal with the district on a systematic plan. If they acquire only scattered farms they cannot have any satisfactory scheme.

2541. Your point is really two-fold. Your reasons are two for asking for compulsory purchase. One is that in some cases there is an unreasonable spirit shown in the negotiations for the sale of land. The second reason is that you want the power to deal with the whole thing more comprehensively than you can now under the voluntary principle?—I would not say there is an unreasonable spirit, in one sense. No man can be found fault with for getting all he can for his land. For that reason, after we bought a few grass farms here and there, the owners and occupiers of intervening farms would certainly hold out for an excessive price.

2542. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Don't you think if you get compulsory power to acquire untenanted land, you should have power to acquire tenanted as well as untenanted land?—Speaking generally, I would say no. I was only thinking of applying compulsory purchase to tenanted lands where such lands were adjacent to grass lands acquired by the Board, and when if they could not be improved while the Board had adjacent untenanted land in hand, they could not be improved at a later period when the Board's land was disposed of.

2543. Don't you think if you had compulsory powers for untenanted land, without compulsory powers for tenanted land, that you would have more untenanted land in hands than you would be able to dispose of?—In that case it would be necessary to have compulsory power to purchase tenanted lands.

2544. What are the objections to getting compulsory powers for tenanted land?—If the prices which tenants are to give for their holdings are compulsorily fixed, it will leave them some grounds to repudiate their obligations in later years.

2545. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—What do you mean by that?—The prices which tenants have agreed to pay for their holdings in the poor parts of Ireland is unquestionably high, and if the prices which they have agreed to pay under the Act of 1905 had been arbitrarily fixed by an authority having compulsory powers, I believe if a few bad years followed soon after the prices were fixed they would repudiate them.

2546. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Well, the development is an interesting one. Do you think that if you had a body that had power to compulsorily fix the price it would be likely that that body would impose obligations

which the tenant would have a difficulty in redeeming?—I think the tenants would be likely to repudiate obligations imposed upon them, even without good grounds.

2547. Don't you think it is quite as likely that obligations will be repudiated under a voluntary system as under a compulsory system?—Most certainly not. If a tenant voluntarily agrees to buy his holding say at twenty-four years' purchase, which is only worth twenty years' purchase, nobody would sympathise with him in repudiating his own bargain. But if the price were fixed compulsorily and that, soon after there was a failure of the potato crop or a big drop in the value of cattle, I am not at all sure that the tenant-purchaser would not have local sympathisers in the repudiation of the obligations arbitrarily imposed upon them.

2548. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The question is this: you say you don't approach a landlord for the purpose of buying his estate without having some indication beforehand that he will receive your offer in a good spirit?—That is so.

2549. But cases may occur in which you may find it very desirable to purchase an estate regarding which you may have some hesitation as to the landlord's feelings. Do I make myself understood?—Yes.

2550. Under present circumstances you don't make that approach to the landlord. You look elsewhere for land to buy. But if it became necessary for you to buy a particular estate, then, if you applied to the landlord, and the landlord said, "I won't sell under any circumstances," and if you were satisfied that without that sale the tenants on the estate would remain in a depressed condition, in such a case would it be desirable to have a system by which the landlord would be compelled to sell at a price fixed by arbitration?—Oh, yes. I think I answered it that way.

2551. Then you are of opinion that compulsion is necessary in regard to tenanted land for relieving congestion?—Yes, under the special circumstances indicated.

2552. You are also of opinion that compulsion would be necessary in regard to a congested estate which a landlord does not want to sell, but the tenants of which need relief?—Yes.

2553. Even when you have not got the material to put them into—because you remember you said you could find in Connemara land only sufficient to relieve a certain portion of the congested estates?—That is so.

2554. And there would remain a substratum of congested estates which you have to relieve, not by the addition of untenanted land, but by the other remedial measures you referred to, and which had such excellent results on the Burren Estate, in Clare Island, and elsewhere?—My view of compulsory purchase of tenanted land is that you should only seek to exercise compulsion on the corner of an estate of tenanted lands when you were satisfied that if that tenanted estate was not sold now, you would not be able to improve the estate at a later period. That is to say, when you had land adjacent to it which you could utilise for the improvement of the estate. But if the fact of the landlord selling now or selling in three or four years does not seem to alter in any way the possibility of improving the estate, then I see no immediate necessity for compulsion.

2555. I won't pursue that matter. You say you can conceive conditions in which compulsory power would be necessary both in regard to tenanted and untenanted land?—It would be necessary for both; for tenanted land when special circumstances exist that render the purchase of estate desirable.

2556. You stated that if you purchase untenanted land piecemeal, as you do at the present time, such a state of things may come to pass that, having bought patches here and there, leaving patches unbought, the price of the unbought patches will be greatly increased; and consequently, when you come to buy these patches later on the Board will have to pay a very high price?—Yes.

2557. And that is a reason the more for dealing en bloc with untenanted land for the relief of congestion?—Yes; when you buy a large area you are able to buy it out in a more satisfactory way than when you buy small detached estates.

2558. Mr. O'KEEFE.—In the past you had no point blank refusal of the landlord to sell?—No.

2559. I mean to sell at all?—No landlord has said, "I won't sell my land at any price."

2560. That was your past experience. So you think that past experience is likely to be repeated in the future when you come to deal with tenant purchasers

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of non-residential holdings?—I think, if the Board be enabled to operate extensively, and if the people know that the policy of the Government is to acquire this land, that they will not sell their land at anything like a reasonable price, and the Board will get less land than they have been getting since 1903.

2651. Do you not anticipate that many of these holders of non-residential tenancies will give you a point blank refusal?—Oh, yes.

2652. And to deal with that, in the case of land which is so necessary, you think you do need a special power of compulsion?—You cannot in my opinion, attempt the solution of the problem in a satisfactory manner unless you get those powers.

2653. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Your objection to the compulsory purchase of tenanted land in the main is that the tenants should have a voice in fixing the price at which they buy?—Yes.

2654. Is it not possible to combine compulsory purchase of tenanted land with the giving to the tenants afterwards a voice in fixing the amounts which they are to pay for their holdings?—If they refused to buy at the price they agreed to pay.

2655. They remain the tenants of the Board?—That would be very unsatisfactory.

2656. Might cases not occur in which it would be quite a feasible thing to buy compulsorily tenanted lands, and afterwards allow the tenants a voice in settling what they are to pay for their holdings?—Oh, yes; quite possible. If there was more freedom; if it was generally accepted by the landlords that the sooner the sale was completed the better; and if there was more freedom of negotiation between the officials of the Board Commission and the agents and the landlords and the tenants, I believe that in a great majority of cases a price could be arranged satisfactorily between the tenant and the landlord. If an official negotiator intervened to bring the parties together, that would be more satisfactory than sending an official to fix the price the tenants should pay.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You must have some final authority.

2657. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The power possessed of compulsorily purchasing tenanted lands should be exercised judiciously?—Yes. All my objections would disappear if judicious discretion were exercised in arranging the terms of settlement.

Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—With reference to the question of his lordship, I should like to ask you: am I to understand you to say that if there was an existing arrangement by which the Congested Districts Board would get power to acquire untenanted land compulsorily, under that you would leave the tenants a free hand to settle the price afterwards?

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—To give him a voice.

Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—Well, a voice rather than a free hand. We must remember that the Congested Districts Board are operating with public money, and are acting in the interests of the public. In answer to his lordship's question, am I to understand you to say that in your opinion the State is, through you, to acquire powers to purchase land for the relief of congested estates, leaving the person who is to buy from you a free voice in the determination of what afterwards you are to get?

The CHAIRMAN.—What he is to pay?

2658. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—I did not quite gather from the answer what the object was in giving the tenant or purchaser a free hand in the price?—As I understood his lordship's question, he asked me if I thought it would be a safe procedure that the Board should buy an estate in whole for re-sale to the tenants, and afterwards take the risk of their remaining on as tenants, or buying at a price to which the Board would agree; is that it?

2659. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Perhaps I had better clear that up. It would be presumed that the tenants would not be anxious to buy except at a reasonable price. The question does not arise as regards the tenants in the first stage. That question does arise with the owners, where there is compulsory purchase from the owners. Then necessarily the Board proposes to sell afterwards to the tenants. What I suggest is that this should not be done without giving them a voice in the price they are to pay. I call your attention to the fact that tenants may be very willing to buy in certain circumstances, and in other circumstances they might not be willing to buy at the price fixed by the Board. What I asked was, would it not be possible, in the case of unwillingness to buy at that price, to hold on as

tenants those who had not agreed to the purchase price?—It would be quite possible, but very unsatisfactory to the Board, who would be anxious to sell the estate as soon as possible.

2670. I find you quite understood my question. And I made a suggestion about the exercise of a judicious discretion?—Yes; I said that in the event of having power to compulsorily buy tenanted land that power should be exercised with much discretion.

2671. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—It is an extremely important matter. I have understood, and I think my colleagues here understood, the point to be, if you take compulsory powers to acquire land for the purpose of relieving congestion it must apply not merely to land-lands but also to tenants. I want to make clear what is in my mind. Supposing there is a property with a considerable amount of untenanted grass land. There are tenants on a considerable extent of this estate, with holdings which are grass farms. In order to provide economic holdings this property is brought under the control of the Congested Districts Board. You now deal with the tenants as well as with the grass farm. Therefore it becomes a question, you say, that in order to work that property you should have compulsory powers to acquire that untenanted land. Do I make that clear?—Yes.

2672. As I understand his lordship's question, it is that you may take that land from the landlord at a compulsory fixed price, but the tenant is afterwards to have a voice in what price he is to get when you take up his case. Would not that place tenants in a totally different position from the landlord?—What I understood the Bishop to say was that where the Board wished to take up grass land, whether that grass land was in the occupation of the landlord or whether it was in the occupation of the tenant, paying rent to the landlord, we should approach the landlord in the one case and the tenant in the other, and our position in each case was the same. We should get possession, and the tenant, if there were one, should be cleared out as well as the landlord. Another state of things arose where there was a tenanted estate in the ordinary sense, and a compulsory price was fixed which the landlord had to accept for his interest. The Board then came into occupation and was the landlord of these tenants. The Board had to pay a price compulsorily fixed for the tenanted land. It was suggested that in the later stage, when the land was offered to the tenants, they should have a voice as to whether they would agree to the price determined by the Board or remain as tenants to the Board.

2673. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—They would not prefer to give up the tenancy?—That is the last thing they would do.

2674. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In many instances the Board would know, before exercising compulsory powers, whether the tenants were willing to buy at a certain price or not?—They might not exactly tell us, but we would have a good idea of the price they would be prepared to give.

2675. If the tenants were consenting parties the difficulty would not arise?—It would not.

2676. As regards the owner in fee, it is no more harmful to him to have to sell tenanted than it is for him to sell untenanted land?—No; they should be dealt with in the same way.

2677. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—You and I, my lord, are on parallel lines on the same question. Your question applies to the price at which the tenant will buy. I am speaking of compulsory powers to take from the tenant all or part of his holding. Let me give an illustration. You have an estate very suitable for the purposes of the Congested Districts Board for the relief of congestion. A portion of that estate is in the hands of a grazier, and adjoining the estate or farms are a large number of grazing farms, held under the statutory conditions?—Non-residential.

2678. I don't care. I am taking the question of tenanted land?—I don't propose to disturb residential tenants.

2679. Don't let us get into any side issue. I take it from the point of view of one who is making up his mind to acquire that property for the relief of congestion, say the Congested Districts Board. Do you ask to have compulsory power to take from the landlord the land in fee at your price; but in the case of the tenant, he is to have a large voice in fixing the price of the land that is taken from him?—I say that in acquiring land the landlord and tenant should be treated on the same terms.

Sir JOHN CONNELL.—That clears the matter up.

2590. Mr. SHERMAN.—Assuming that compulsion is proved to be a necessity, and is given, who would be the new body to carry it out?—I should hope to see it done something like this. The Congested Districts Board would claim to have specially scheduled all grazing land—non-residential—that they think necessary for their purpose from time to time. Then they should open negotiations, with a view to purchase, with the owners and occupiers, and try to come to terms as to price. If they fail, they should have the right to have the price fixed by an independent tribunal. As to the tribunal for fixing the price the Land Commission ought to be acceptable. The Land Commission or some independent tribunal would fix the price to be paid to the landlord for the fee-simple, and, if there be a tenant, also fix the price the tenant must take.

2591. How would the compulsory powers be exercised? Who would approach the landlord on a compulsory footing? If he refused to sell how would you proceed?—The Board would requisition the authority having the power to fix the price, and the Act giving these compulsory powers should settle the procedure under which the money would be paid and possession of the land obtained.

2592. The Board would not have power to enforce by legal process?—That power would be necessary, and should be provided for in the compulsory clauses of the Act.

2593. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—And equally that principle would apply to tenanted and untenanted land?—To all land required for the purpose of relieving congestion.

2594. The same principles would be put into operation with regard to fee-simple of tenanted land, and against the tenants of that land; all land for the purpose that the Board would require?—Yes.

2595. Now, I want to put two points very shortly. As I gather, you have only entered into negotiations with landlords indirectly when you heard they were willing to sell?—Both directly and indirectly.

2596. The Congested Districts Board want a certain commodity—land, tenanted and untenanted. Now, people who want a certain commodity invite tenders, and let it be generally known. Now any such step taken by the Board?—No such step. It is, however, generally known, quite well known, that the Board are prepared, indeed anxious, to get hold of suitable untenanted land, and to pay a good price for it.

2597. Has any circular been issued to the landlords, addressed to the landlords, in and about the congested districts, calling attention to the fact that you are buyers, and ready to enter into negotiations?—No, I believe the Estates Commissioners have issued such a circular, but the Board have not.

2598. This is why I mention it. Within the last few days I have received a circular from the Estates Commissioners about the sale of untenanted land, and every other landlord I have spoken to has also noticed it, so far as I know. Now, the other point is this. You said it was necessary to have compulsory powers to enable the Board to acquire suitable property?—Yes.

2599. And, of course, at a reasonable price, at least at a less price than by voluntary agreement?—I did not say that. I said a fair and just price.

2600. A fair and just price to be settled by some authority to be created?—I would have the most independent and impartial tribunal you could frame.

2601. But it would be fixed by compulsion?—Yes.

2602. I suppose a most suitable property for the Congested Districts Board to purchase for relieving congestion would be a property where there was a great deal of untenanted land, and where the holdings were economic holdings, which did not require anything to be done in the way of improvement?—Yes; one which the Board considered had sufficient untenanted land. I don't suppose they would have any difficulty in acquiring sufficient tenanted land.

2603. Let me say there are two estates in one neighbourhood which you want to acquire. One has a quantity of untenanted land, but has some economic holdings. The other is tenanted land, and is all good. Assuming all other things equal, would the land of the first-named description be the more suitable?—What we require is untenanted land on or adjacent to congested estates.

2604. Untenanted land on an estate, on which estate the other holdings are perfectly economic?—That would be suitable for the relief of unconsumed holders outside the estate.

2605. I suppose we might call this a very high class of property, a most desirable class of estate to purchase for your purpose?—It is more an ideal one than a type often found in practice.

2606. It would be almost perfect. It is ideally the land you would seek to acquire—the more you get of that sort the better it would be?—Yes.

2607. That being so, you would expect the owner to ask a higher price for that class of property than for the ordinary class of property?—A tribunal appointed to fix prices compulsorily would be quite incapable of discharging its duties, quite unfit for its office, if it failed to appreciate the favourable conditions you refer to when fixing the price.

2608. You shift the whole question on that body that would have to be created in order to carry out the scheme?—The scheme is only being discussed, so that we could not now lay down rules for the tribunal.

2609. Are you quite satisfied that everything has been done in a general way to obtain estates without compulsion, in the way of advertising that you want the land, quite satisfied that you are at the end of your tether, that all existing means have been taken of letting landlords know that you, that is the Board, are prepared and ready to deal with them, and make offers to them?—We want to get land in sufficient quantity, without delay, and where it would be most serviceable. I believe myself if the Board had the power to schedule the land required it would facilitate voluntary arrangements, for the fact of scheduling a number of holdings would induce many owners to come to an arrangement without compulsion.

2610. The question of applying to landholders is also a question of the geographical position of the land you want to acquire?—We would look first for the land which is upon, or adjacent to, a congested district.

2611. Then there are geographical and other influences making you wish to apply compulsion?—Yes.

2612. Sir ANSTWY MACDONNELL.—You said you knew of no cases in which a congested estate suitable for the Board's operations has been withheld from the Board on making application for the purpose. Do you know any such landlord who refused to consider the Board's proposal?—At any price?

2613. Yes, at any price?—No.

2614. I am aware of one of the largest landlords in the West of Ireland who refused even to answer the letter in which application was made to him?—I know nothing of that. I am only speaking of matters within my own knowledge.

2615. Sir ANSTWY MACDONNELL.—It is quite true all the same.

2616. Mr. KEANE.—I understand you are in favour of compulsory powers for the purchase of untenanted land. You say you find the greatest difficulty in the matter of tenanted land?—Yes; but I think it is necessary to have the same power with regard to tenanted land in the special circumstances referred to.

2617. Great discretion will be needed in exercising this power in the case of tenanted land?—Yes.

2618. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Before we leave the question of compulsory purchase, I wish to ask you a question to clear up a point. You have already stated in your examination—we are agreed, I think, that if it is impossible to find extra land to raise the holdings generally in a congested district to an economic level we must purchase non-residential estates compulsorily?—Yes.

2619. If the amount of the additional land so acquired is not sufficient to attain the object, we must proceed to purchase residential estates compulsorily?—I did not propose that—not residential, but non-residential. My proposal is to purchase all non-residential tenements having a poor-law valuation of £25 or upwards. Some of these non-residential tenements are held by landlords, or let under temporary lettings. A considerable number of these non-residential tenements are held under long and nearly permanent leases. A number also are held by tenant-purchasers. Some are also held under lease, and my proposal for compulsory purchase would apply to all these non-residential tenements of £25 or upwards, irrespective of the tenure of them.

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Mr. H. Dora.

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2708. There may be an estate which is partly residential and partly non-residential?—That may be so.

2709. There may be tenants on an estate and also grazing land on an estate, and it may be necessary to buy the whole estate, and therefore we would be buying an estate part of which would be residential and part non-residential?—Yes.

2710. In the case of the residential holding on such an estate, if it were a large residential holding, would you consider that you should have compulsory power to purchase that for the purpose of assisting in the general re-arrangement and re-striping of the estate?—I think it would be very desirable in exceptional cases, but the proportion of such cases would be very small.

2711. Yes; but you would not absolutely exclude such purchases if necessary for the proper re-arrangement of the estate?—Certainly not; where circumstances warranted the Board in taking such an extreme course, they should have the power to do so. And that would be quite in accordance with the Crofters Act. The Crofters Commission can compulsorily oblige a landlord to let portions of the land in his own hands to tenants on his estate.

2712. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Easier in his hands or not?—Yes, provided you take from him only so much land as will leave a specified minimum valuation of land in his own possession.—I think amounting to a valuation of £300 a year.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I think it is £100.*

2713. The CHAIRMAN.—You say you would exclude residential land. How do you describe that; what do you mean by non-residential?—A tenement or holding on which the occupier does not reside.

2714. You exclude a certain class of property. You would not apply compulsion to residential estates or holdings?—Not generally speaking, but it would be necessary under exceptional circumstances.

2715. "Under exceptional circumstances" again rather confuses the point. You must have powers or you must not. I understood your point was that while you would ask for compulsory powers with regard to unenclosed land and non-residential land, you would exclude what you call residential?

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say you ought to have the power to deal with such cases under exceptional circumstances?—Yes.

2716. The CHAIRMAN.—You want power to deal with other classes of property in exceptional cases?—Yes. I wanted to be as moderate as I could in my demands.

2717. You want power to deal with all classes of property concerned?—Yes, that is the way I would like to have it put.

2718. You want power to cover all kinds of property, only it would be in the discretion of the persons who had to use it or not?—Yes.

2719. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What would you propose to do with the residence?—In practice I would anticipate that it would not be found advisable to take up all the land of a residential holding.

2720. In a general way, you said you wanted such power in exceptional circumstances. What would you do with the residence?—I would only take portion of the area attached to the residence.

2721. You don't propose to take the whole of the holding?—I could name a man who has over a thousand acres in connection with his house, land of good quality, and the Department fixing a compulsory price might think it reasonable that he should part with 400 or 500 acres. I would leave it to them, after inquiry, to determine how much it would be reasonable to take off a residential tenement.

2722. You would not ask for powers to deal with the whole of it?—No.

2723. Mr. BUTLER.—It won't be the Department fixing the price that will have the discretion?—They should be good judges as to the minimum area it was reasonable to leave with the residence.

2724. It is not to fix what is wanted, but to fix the price of what is wanted?—It might be left to the discretion of the Board to fix the acreage they desired to get.

2725. It must be left to the discretion of the person to ask what he wants. You could not leave that to

the discretion of the Department fixing the price, which would be the Land Court?—It would possibly be more satisfactory to let the Board estimate the portion of the area they require—that would be, perhaps, the most satisfactory.

2726. The CHAIRMAN.—You have said to Mr. Kavanagh that you don't propose that the compulsory powers should apply to the whole of a residential holding, but only to those portions of it that you would want. I don't understand that. Surely the powers would apply to the whole thing, and what you would like to do would be to approach the Land Court or some other body that might be chosen and say, "We want from that residential holding 400 acres of land," and you would like them to authorize you to buy that 400 acres and to fix the price?—Yes.

2727. The compulsory power would apply to the whole holding?—Well, I would make no objection to that.

2728. Do you contemplate a system which would give you compulsory powers over portion of a holding?—I was following the precedent of the Scotch Crofters Act, which enables the Crofters' Commission to take portion of a residential tenement compulsorily and lease it to the tenants of the same estate.

2729. The power applies to the whole holding?—No; for they must leave in his possession land, Mr. Sutherland says, of £100 minimum valuation.

2730. Sir ARTHUR MACDONELL.—Would it not be left to the owner of the holding to say, "If you take 200 acres you must take the whole of it." Would it not be left a matter of discretion with him whether all should be taken?—It would be reasonable to give the owners the option of obliging the Board to take over the entire holding at a price to be fixed.

2731. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You would like to have power to take compulsorily the entire amount of a holding above a certain minimum, as in the case of Scotland?—Yes, that would satisfy me. It would not be desirable under ordinary circumstances to oblige a man who resides on a tract of land to leave it. It is only those who don't reside on it I thought of as persons who had least claim against disturbance.

2732. The CHAIRMAN.—The Act of 1903 enabled people to buy holdings up to an extent of £7,000?—Yes; £5,000 is the maximum amount, except under special circumstances.

2733. Do people who have holdings of that class usually live on them or not?—Purchasers of this class would usually have two or more holdings, living on one and farming the other, either in connection with the home holding or independently.

2734. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—These would be non-residential?—Yes; but the holding on which he lived would not be, under my proposal, interfered with.

2735. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Can you say what special cases the increase to £7,000 was intended to meet?—The Land Commission or the Estates Commissioners have jurisdiction to make advances to the maximum limit of £7,000 to enable a large occupier on an estate to buy, so that remnants of the estate may not remain unsold.

2736. What was the original amount first?—about £3,000, then £5,000, and now £7,000.

2737. Am I right in suggesting that the explanation of the limit was due to the fact that there were in the country cricked tenants to whom it would be necessary to give £7,000 worth of land to compensate them—if that is the proper word—from the holdings from which they had been cricked?—I think there was something about that in the Parliamentary discussion, but it is not indicated in the statute.

In any case, before £7,000 would be granted there would be exceptional circumstances?—That is clearly specified.

2738. The CHAIRMAN.—I think that finishes all you have to say about the Ffrench estate, the Clare Island estate, and the smaller estates—Leonard and Masson?—Yes.

2739. Is there anything else you wish to say in this connection?—No; we have not followed the order of my memorandum, but you have discussed the important matters in it, except the suggestions, but they are perhaps outside this inquiry.

* Note by Secretary.—The Crofters Commission cannot assign land for enlargement of a holding if the land is *inter alia*, part of an existing farm or other holding unless the rent or annual letting value of such farm or holding shall exceed £100. If the rent or annual letting value exceeds £150, but not £175, one-third may be assigned; if it is between £175 and £200, one-half may be assigned, and if it is above £200, two-thirds may be assigned. See 45 and 46 Vict. c. 20, s. 13.

Sept. 12, 1906.

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2743. The suggestions you made when you first inspected I—I pass over that and I ask the attention of the Commission to the next paragraph, which describes the class of estates which the Board desire to purchase, namely, (a) estates containing large areas of partly or wholly untenanted land; (b) estates in congested districts, composed mainly of unseemly holdings, needing re-arrangement, or that could be enlarged by the addition of untenanted land upon or adjacent to the estate, or considerably improved by drainage, road-making or distribution of subsoil, in cases where such improvement works could not be efficiently carried out after sale of the holdings to the tenants. The Board desire to get the worst class of tenanted estates which could not be sold without special treatment, and at the same time untenanted land, to enable them to relieve the congestion on these poor tenanted estates.

2744. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—May I ask you, with reference to that phrase, is it "could not" or "ought not" you mean? You say "the worst class of tenanted estates which could not be sold without special treatment." Do you mean "could not" or "ought not"?—Well, perhaps, "ought not" would be more correct.

2745. And which are now being sold, you contend, by the Estates Commissioners?—Fewer of them are being sold now, but up to quite recent date the Estates Commissioners, or rather the Land Commission, sold the holdings just as they were. They make no attempt at re-arrangement or improvement.

2746. They simply stereotyped them?—They sold them just as they were. I need not enlarge upon that. You discussed so fully the subject of untenanted land that I pass over that, and I think I may pass over the paragraph about the circumstances under which the Board purchased these lands, except to refer to it as evidence that they made every effort they could to buy untenanted land, and in some cases paid a price which they thought was more than the value of the land, in order to secure it.

2747. Mr. O'KILLY.—You say that the Board in some cases paid more for the land than its value represented?—More than it was reported to them was the fair value of the estate.

2748. Would that account for the reluctance of some tenants to move from their old holdings to new holdings—because they feared that the Board, having paid a large price, their annuity would be prohibitive?—No; the Board adopted the principle throughout that no matter what the estate cost them the price demanded on re-sale must be a reasonable one. In these two cases I have mentioned they would the two estates at a substantial loss, having deliberately bought them at a price estimated to be more than the fair value.

2749. But your substantial loss would be measured by 5 per cent. I—It comes within the 6 per cent. on the entire transactions of the Board. In these particular cases it was over 20 per cent.

2750. Does this 6 per cent. represent expenditure on improvements rather than the difference between what the tenant did pay and what he would pay if he was to pay the full sum that you paid for the property?—The 6 per cent. loss represents the difference between the gross cost price of the estates in their improved condition, less the revenue collected, and the price at which the properties were sold to the tenants.

2751. Mr. SERRAVALLO.—At which it was purchased from the proprietor?—The Board bought an estate from the owner and made an outlay upon it. The gross cost of the estate then is the cost price paid to the vendor, plus outlay. Then the Board deducts from that gross cost the rent and other revenue received. From that they again deduct the price charged the tenants on re-sale, and the difference between those two items on their entire transactions represents 6 per cent. In some cases they lost 20 per cent., and in other cases nothing at all; the average is 6 per cent.

2752. Mr. O'KILLY.—And the longer you keep the holdings in your possession, the more cheaply then the tenants will get them?—Yes. The net cost of the estate becomes less.

2753. Was that cost included in the £11,000 you gave us?—It is the net loss which the Board has £11,000 a year to cover.

2754. And improvements as well?—The Board could borrow from the Board of Works temporarily two-thirds of the money to effect the improvements, but it is when they have to meet the net deficiency that they want more funds, and consequently, as they have only £11,000 to meet that deficiency, the extent of their transactions have to be measured by their capacity to

lose, which is £11,000 a year. I think the next most important matter deals with the very great difficulties that the Board have experienced in connection with the clearance of title of tenants' holdings. I merely want to refer to it generally, and the Board's solicitor will give you technical evidence. The Board's operations have been greatly delayed through the difficulties of making title to tenanted lands, and it is absolutely necessary that the Government shall take the necessary means to facilitate the transfer of title in land. That is shortly my case. We have had difficulty in every case of striping and amalgamation. I have here a map showing an acquired estate, and adjoining it I show two tenanted holdings marked blue and red. In the striping of that townland you can see at once that some portions of the red and blue will go into several other holdings, supposing the stripes are laid out right across the townland. When we have the estate finally arranged for sale, in order to sell to such tenants as may have portions of the red and blue in their new holdings, the legal title of the red and blue must be made clear. There are usually equities attached to such titles, and these have to be discharged under the present condition of the law before the Board can sell with a good title a holding any portion of which was acquired by the Board from an occupying tenant.

2755. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—But does the difficulty arise in the case of judicial tenants who have been in one count, who have had their rents fixed, and their shape lodged in court with the Registrar?—Yes.

2756. Does the difficulty arise in respect of judicial as well as non-judicial tenants?—Oh, yes; irrespective of the tenure. It refers to all cases—a permanent occupier, whether he holds under yearly or judicial tenancy, or in fact any tenure. A tenant might have contracted to pay his daughter a fortune of £50 on her marriage, and probably he paid down only £20, and agrees to pay the remainder afterwards. That marriage settlement may be a charge on the holding, though not registered. If the tenant goes into a new holding, and the Board put other occupiers into his holding, they may be entitled by the creditors of the man from whom the Board acquired the holding.

2757. Mr. O'KILLY.—Could they not transfer the equities?—The law contemplates the transfer of the equities to the new holding, but the procedure specified for carrying that out is found to be impracticable.

2758. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—What is the process?—A certain motion has to be made before the County Court, and certain notices served which the Board's solicitor will explain when he gives his evidence.

2759. If all that procedure was transferred to the Congested Districts Board would not that get rid of the difficulty?—It would be better to get the solicitor's opinion on that.

2760. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would a man buy if he had all these charges on it?—He could buy under the Land Purchase Acts.

2761. But would he buy?—He would not buy from the Board, if he knew his new holding was liable for any charge other than the annuity agreed upon. The sale of a holding under the Land Purchase Acts is effected subject to all equities attached to the land. All that is bought under the Land Purchase Acts is the rent payable to the landlord, and a holding may be subject to other charges beside the rent.

2762. Mr. O'KILLY.—I am very much interested in finding out what the procedure of the County Court is?—Better ask the solicitor for that information; he can explain it much better. I merely want to say that the legal difficulties are so great they very seriously impede our work. This map will explain to you very well. Suppose we have to buy out any of these holdings (referring to a map), we have to inquire into the title for a period in some cases of thirty years, and no matter how we pursue our inquiries, very frequently we are not satisfied that there is a clear legal title established, the main difficulty being that small tenants such as the Board are dealing with rarely convey their interest by deed or written document, and a holding may be handed down from father to son or other member of the family for generations, and when the solicitor calls upon the occupying tenant to deduce title from a previous legal representative of the holding he finds it impossible in many cases.

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Mr. H.
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2753. Sir JOHN COLSON.—If there is no legal document available of any description, surely the difficulty wipes itself out. How can any claim be established otherwise than by the production of some legal and duly stamped deed?—Oh, yes; it can.

2754. Do you mean that it is recognized by the Courts?—Yes.

2755. Then I do not see where you are to end?—For instance, put it in this way. The present occupier pays the rent to the landlord. So long as he pays the rent, the landlord does not concern himself how he got into possession. The fact is that he is there, but may have got the holding from his mother, a widow, who succeeded her husband, who died intestate. Other members of the family may claim their legal share of the father's estate, and may sell out the son the widow has given the holding to.

2756. But why I put the question about the judicial tenancy is this. Is it not the case when a man goes into court to have his rent fixed, due notice is given, and any person having a claim can come into court; and I always understood—of course I am not a lawyer—that in fixing a judicial rent if there are those claims and debts, they would be produced, and if they were not, the man would start with clean title?—Oh, no; there is never any question as to what the debt on the holding are when the judicial rent is being fixed. It is no part of the investigation, nor do the Commissioners even closely inquire whether the tenant has a good legal title. If they have a doubt, they appoint the occupier limited administrator for the purposes of the Act, and fix the rent.

2757. But anyone who has a title has notice that this man is going in, and surely the man with a claim has a right to come forward and say "I have a claim; that land is mine and not his"?—He is not entitled. That is a matter for another court.

2758. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is not necessary in fixing a fair rent?—It is not part of the inquiry at all. It does not enter into it at all. The same difficulty that I have already explained on the map occurs when a tenant migrates from a holding such as the red, and goes into a new holding. Before he goes into possession a clear title must be made to the land he vacates before the Board can safely give it into the possession of other tenants.

2759. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Suppose in the case of a new tenant who is about to become a tenant purchaser through the operation of the Congested Districts Board all subterranean arrangements can still go on. Is that so?—All these equities continue in force.

2760. But is this the difficulty, that the tenant put in by you as purchasing proprietor on the Dillon estate or any other estate gets his clear start with a clear title?—His title is not clear. He buys the holding subject to the equities attached to it. He merely gets an advance from the Government to buy the landlord's interest. Any other interest is not prejudiced by the purchase.

2761. Then the man does not get an absolutely clear start or clear title?—His title is not affected by the purchase. The next thing I come to is the Act for providing for compulsory striping. I pass over that by saying that the Board have some powers under the Act of 1903. Under that Act the Board have power to compulsorily stripe land under the following circumstances. On the request of three-fourths of a townland they can compulsorily determine the tenancy in any one of the holdings of the remaining fourth, or in the holdings of the remaining fourth, but that in practice is not satisfactory as it is not always possible to get three-fourths of the tenants to sign such a request. They have a dislike to do an act that would be of an unfriendly character towards a neighbor, and in practice it is difficult to work. I suggest that the Board should have power, and the Estates Commissioners should have similar power, to determine any tenancy in any townland to be striped where the tenant refused to agree to the arrangement proposed.

2762. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Irrespective of proportion, subject, of course, to the conditions that the 1903 Act imposes upon the Board, viz. 1.—that the tenant shall be offered another holding of not less value, or get such compensation as the County Court Judge may determine.

2763. Sir FRANCIS MORRIS.—What page of your memorandum deals with that?—Page 3.

2764. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You are aware that the Crofters' Commission have got that power already?—

Yes. I have the Crofters Act here. I merely ask to have it noted that the power the Board have is not sufficient, and in my opinion the change in the law I suggest would not entail any hardship.

2765. You would, of course, specify the object for which you would want the power?—I only ask for it in the re-arrangement of estates.

2766. I think in the Crofters Act the circumstances under which such power is going to be used are laid down?—Yes, the Board would have to state their object.

2767. The Act of Parliament would have to state it.—The Act of Parliament does state it—that they can only do it for the purpose of striping, migration, or enlargement of holdings.

2768. And to whom does the Act of Parliament give that power?—The Board.

2769. So you have it then?—We have it only as the requisition of three-fourths of the tenants, and I ask that the powers should be given at the discretion of the Board.

2770. Mr. O'KELLY.—You think it is reluctance on the part of the tenants prevents them from agreeing to an arrangement that would inflict alleged hardship?—Yes. They do not consider it a neighborly thing to do, and it is more the business of the official charged with the carrying out of the work.

2771. I think you ought to have that power?—Of course I only ask that power to be given subject to the control of the County Court Judge, who will fix such compensation as he thinks fit.

2772. You do not refer to the County Court?—I want to avoid going into detail. The Act specifies the jurisdiction. I pass over those other matters that have been discussed in a general way, and I shall try and shorten my remarks as much as possible. I come now to another important matter. It is under the marginal note "Amalgamation of small holdings." In the case of amalgamation of small holdings the map will illustrate the points clearly. (Witness referred to a map.) The Board purchased that large green area coloured green. Alongside are small tenant purchasers' holdings coloured red. Those holdings coloured red are over 45 and not exceeding 610 valuations. The plots coloured blue are tenant purchasers' holdings under 45 rateable value. Red and blue are the principal holdings round this green area. Those coloured yellow are ordinary tenants' holdings over 45, but not exceeding 610, and those coloured dark green are ordinary tenants' holdings not exceeding 45 rateable value.

2773. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Ordinary tenants? What do you mean by ordinary?—Ordinary as distinct from a tenant purchaser—ordinary tenants who pay rent to the landlords. Those coloured red have purchased their holdings under the Land Acts.

2774. That is, the landlord had reconveyed his estate and sold to a few tenants here and there, and, therefore, there are tenant purchasers and ordinary tenants on the same estate?—No; some were at one time on estate coloured green, and the others were not. Those who are still tenants were not on this estate at any time. The Board purchased all this green land, marked green, containing about a couple of thousand acres. It is in a non-congested district. The first thing they would like to do would be to enlarge to an economic standard all those small holdings dovetailed into it. It is a comparatively simple matter to enlarge the tenant purchasers' holdings, the only objection being that under the law as it at present stands, the Board are supposed to utilise the whole of the land for the benefit of scheduled areas, and ought not to apply any of the land for the enlargement of those small holdings which happen to be in a non-congested district.

2775. The CHAIRMAN.—I notice you say "supposed." Do you mean "may not"?—I need not elaborate this difficulty, because it has been discussed already. But I suggest to you that it is absolutely necessary that the Board should have power to enlarge to an economic standard any small holdings, whether they are or are not in a congested district. There is not much difficulty in the case of the tenant purchasers, but there is a difficulty in the case of the ordinary tenants. When the land goes, there will not be another chance for them. I suggest that the Board should have those tenanted holdings compulsorily add under the Land Acts, and the Board could then enlarge the holdings. That map shows holdings we are actually trying to deal

with at present, and it puts before you three or four classes of occupiers. The Board cannot at present amalgamate with the tenants' holdings any portion of this marked green, because it is on another estate. If they could first buy the holdings at a fair price they could amalgamate the additions with their present small holdings. That, I think, is absolutely necessary. In the case of the tenant purchasers, under the law as it at present stands, the Board could deal with all of the limitation restricting the Board to enlargement of holdings within a scheduled district were removed.

2786. Can you, under the existing law, enlarge holdings on the same estate, though the estate is outside the congested districts?—Yes, but the Board do not buy any estate outside the congested districts unless it is mainly untenanted.

2787. But supposing you were to buy a large tract of grass lands, principally for the purpose of helping tenants in congested districts, and there happened to be a few small holdings on the same estate—can you enlarge these?—Yes.

2788. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The question is, when an estate is bought outside the congested districts area containing a large proportion of grass land, and some small occupiers, whether the Board in the usual course added to the holdings of these small occupiers?—On their own estate?

2789. On their own estate?—Oh, yes; but there is no tenant on this estate.

2790. The CHAIRMAN.—Those green holdings marked on that map, this little green one, those are not on the same estate as the big grass plot?—No.

2791. So that under the existing law you cannot touch these in any way?—No.

2792. But some other of these other ones marked red, these are tenant purchasers on the same estate you bought?—Some of them bought out their lands about eighteen years ago on what was then the same estate. The landlord kept this grass land in his own hands.

2793. Can you deal with that?—No, because they are not in the congested district; otherwise we could.

2794. If there were tenants other than the tenant purchasers you could?—Yes; if they were tenants to the Board.

2795. Mr. O'KELLY.—That is an estate in a non-scheduled area?—Yes.

2796. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—If you bought a grass tract with a few uneconomic holdings on it, would not your procedure be after purchase to ask the Lord Lieutenant to schedule that?—Yes.

2797. Mr. O'KELLY.—Have you not got that power?—Yes.

2798. Mr. O'KELLY.—I think it is under the 75th section (1) of the Act of 1903, "where the Congested Districts Board purchase land for the benefit of a congested districts county they may sell under the Land Purchase Acts any parcels thereof which are not required for tenants of holdings in that county to any tenants or proprietors of holdings not exceeding 25 or lessable value on an estate adjacent to or in the neighbourhood of that land, or to any sons of such tenants." I understand you to say that—if you buy land in an unscheduled area you add that on to the scheduled areas?—If you buy a separate estate it remains a separate estate.

2799. You ask the Lord Lieutenant to schedule a congested district?—To schedule as congested an estate purchased by the Board, in a non-congested district.

2800. Can you migrate tenants from a scheduled district to a non-scheduled area?—Yes.

2801. Then if that satisfies the requirements of those whom you migrate, you may devote the surplus of land left to tenants whose valuation does not exceed £5?—That is so.

2802. And then if there is a further surplus left you can devote that further surplus to sons of tenants?—Yes, but what I wanted to show is that the procedure ought to be reversed.

2803. My point is this—that you cannot well touch uneconomic holdings upon this particular estate until you have first satisfied the requirements of those for whom you had purchased this estate?—That is strictly the law, and that is the reason I want the law altered. Before the requirements of the local people can be considered there must be a surplus on

hands after satisfying the needs of the scheduled districts for the benefit of which the land was purchased.

2804. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—To make the matter clear, you buy an estate outside the congested area; that estate is in the main grass land, but on it there are a few small occupiers. As soon as the Lord Lieutenant has agreed to the scheduling of that estate purchased by you may you legally add to the holdings of the small occupiers on the estate?—On the estate. Yes.

2805. Then, when you have proceeded for them and provided for your importations from the congested districts, then only are you free to increase the holdings of small occupiers on the fringe lying outside the estate?—That is what I understood Mr. O'KELLY to have meant.

2806. Mr. O'KELLY.—As a matter of fact, Mr. Doran, do you ever have any surplus land left over?—No; because we have not enough of untenanted land.

2807. Mr. BRYCE.—I understand you want to be able to satisfy these small holders—coloured yellow and red, and so on—on the fringe, and who are actually tending part of the estate—you don't desire to set it aside exclusively for the benefit of the congested district because of the local jealousy which would otherwise arise?—I suggest that the procedure ought to be that the Board would have power to enlarge the uneconomic holdings adjacent to a grazing tract like that, and apply the surplus to the relief of congestion in the scheduled areas. You cannot otherwise hope to carry out a scheme for the benefit of congested without local friction. The people cannot understand why the Board should bring tenants from a distance to place them on good holdings, while they disregard the requirements of the uneconomic holders adjacent to the grass land.

2808. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You have that power on all holdings within estates which you purchased?—Yes.

2809. What you want is the same power on the fringe adjacent to the estate you purchase?—Yes.

2810. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What would you call adjacent?—I say immediately adjacent.

2811. How far would that be?—Not exceeding a statute mile, I would say.

2812. Mr. BRYCE.—Is not all this treading the question as rather a piece of patchwork. You are leaving out of account the general reference to the Commission—namely, to consider the question, not only of the congested districts as they at present exist, but of the congested portions in other parts of the country. Now, if you get general powers, you won't want any special legislation for the difficulty you are presenting, because it will fall under the general powers?—I am referring only to the present powers of the Board and the requirements of the scheduled districts.

2813. That is precisely my point. If legislation is going to be recommended by the Commission for relieving congestion wherever it is found then you will not want these particular powers at all?—No.

2814. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You want to deal with un-economic holdings, even although they are not in congested districts?—Yes. Put shortly, un-economic holders outside the scheduled area are as much entitled to Government consideration as those inside it.

2815. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—If that estate represented on that map was in a congested district, scheduled as such, there would be no difficulty?—No difficulty; but the difficulty about enlarging the tenants' holdings would still continue if you could not buy them from the landlord.

2816. The difficulty would not be got over by scheduling the area?—No.

Mr. O'KELLY.—All this matter is referred to very fully in the 13th and 14th reports?—Another difficulty in connection with the amalgamation of holdings is when you move a migrant who has, say, three or four parcels of land comprising his holding. If it is desirable to give these parcels to different tenants adjacent to that, the clearance of title comes in there again, and it is impossible in practice sometimes to amalgamate such a parcel of land with holdings of the adjacent tenants in the present state of the law. I think I had better leave the difficulties in connection with that matter for Mr. O'Connor, so that I may not take up too much of your time. I want to impress on the Commission that in order to facilitate the amalgamation of holdings changes must be made in

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Sept. 15, 1906. the law, as so to make much more simple the transfer of the title of land. The most important question which I came to is apportionment of turlary, which, in the West of Ireland particularly, has been the cause of a good deal of litigation and had feeling amongst the small occupiers of land. In connection with the sales of estates it is very desirable that the turlary available should be apportioned amongst the tenant purchasers instead of giving them more or less undefined turlary rights in connection with their holdings. The distribution and apportioning of turlary in this way entails a great deal of labour upon the Board's staff dealing with the arrangement of estates, and delays their operations very considerably. In the present state of the law the Board find it often very difficult to go into possession of surplus turlary on the tenants' holdings in order to give a right of turlary to adjacent landholders who have no turf on their own holdings.

2817. The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. DOWD, I don't think you need go into details in regard to turlary. Important, no doubt, as it is, I think we can take it that the Board have done everything that has been necessary to settle things of that kind?—Yes.

2818. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—There is only one question I would like to ask—that is, as to the merits of a system by which you would divide up turlary amongst individuals, and a system which would make it over to trustees. Have you tried the system of trustees at all, Mr. DOWD?—I may say the Board have not. They don't approve of it at all. They have only done it in one case, where the turlary was so scattered over a large area of mountain land that it was impossible to locate where each tenant could exercise the right of turlary, and in that case they conveyed the whole area to trustees named by the tenants, so that these trustees might from time to time regulate and fix the particular places where each of the tenants could get the right of turlary. In dealing with their poor class of purchasers they consider it of very great importance to settle this turlary question finally, and the procedure adopted in all such cases is to define on the ground the particular plot or plots on which each tenant purchaser will have a right to cut turf in future. That necessitates laying out rights of way to give access to these plots. It also necessitates entering into an arrangement with the tenant of the holding, and settling with him the compensation or deduction that would be made in his purchase money, in consideration of the inconvenience and trespass arising from other tenants entering upon the holdings to obtain turf.

2819. You have had no practical experience of the trustee system to enable you to contrast the two systems on a basis of fact?—I have. I can name the Edmondstown Estate in County Roscommon, on which there were three thousand acres of turlary, and the Land Commission sold this turlary in plots to the tenants.

2820. Apportioning trustees?—Giving them the right to appoint trustees. The tenants, however, disputed about the bogs, and a great deal of litigation arose. I believe one man was killed, or nearly killed, in a quarrel that arose. Disputes continued for years, and then some of the tenants refused to pay their annuities until they got their portion of the bogs allotted to them. The Land Commission employed me—that is, about eighteen years ago—to undertake the allocation of the turlary amongst these people. I succeeded in doing it. The Land Commission conveyed the entire bogs to me as an agent with power to assign portions to each tenant entitled. I laid out the necessary rights of way and made the necessary maps, and made a special conveyance of turlary to each tenant. That is my experience of where the trustee system failed.

2821. Have you had any similar experience, or in that an isolated case?—Near Clontarf, on an estate adjoining the Board's property—the Wills-Sandford Estate—the Estates Commissioners bought that estate, or it was bought direct by the tenants. I am not quite sure which. The bogs upon it were assigned to trustees. One of them was the priest of the place, the other a leading public man, the Chairman of the County Council, and they have already had very great trouble in the matter; in fact, I heard quite recently that some of the people threatened to put both the priest and the County Councillor into a bog-hole. I do not know if the report is true, but I repeat to you what I have been told.

2822. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You regard that as an abuse of the turlary system, I suppose?—Yes.

2823. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Are you aware it is the usual practice of the Estates Commissioners to make it over to the trustees?—Yes; on the Dillon Estate we found it necessary to lay out seven thousand turlary plots. That gives you an idea of the great labour attending the work.

2824. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—On an average, speaking approximately, how long do you give the turf to last on the Dillon Estate? I mean to say, you give every man a plot—approximately, how long will it last?—I should think that the turlary on the estate ought to last seventy or eighty years at least.

2825. Would you put that average so high in the other cases?—I know some estates where they have no turlary.

2826. The best that has been done by the Board to establish economic holdings is in that case not likely to last very long?—In some cases.

2827. Will not that have a very serious effect upon the condition of these congested tenants?—A very serious effect, and that leads me to the suggestion that in my opinion all surplus turlary ought to be reserved to the Land Commission very much as mineral rights are, so that it would be in their power to apportion it amongst the people for their fuel supply. I think there can be no objection to this when you come to consider it, and when you bear in mind that the rest of the holding which the tenant buys from the landlord under a Land Commission advance does not cover the turlary; that is to say, under the various Land Acts a tenant has the right to use the surface of the turlary, and he has also the right to use the cut-away, but the actual bog between the surface and the cut-away the landlord has control over, except such portion of it as is required for the use of the holding on which it is situate. To put it in another way, the tenant has no right in law to sell any turf off his holding, no matter what surplus turf may be upon it. The landlord can sell all the turf on the holding, provided he leaves sufficient for the tenant's use, and that he compensates the tenant for surface damage committed.

2828. The CHAIRMAN.—For the tenant's use, for how long?—ORDER PAUSE.

2829. Didn't you say that the law now allowed the landlord to go and cut away and sell all the turf upon a holding so long as he left a sufficient quantity for the tenant's use, if he compensated him for surface damage?—Yes.

2830. You say the law allows him to cut away all the turf except that necessary for the tenant's use?—You want to know how many years. On that legal point some of the County Court Judges have held that it is for the residue of the period for which his judicial rent is fixed, and that if the bog he cut away or nearly cut away when he is having his rent renewed, the rent would be reduced if there was no turf on his holding. Other judges fixed the period at about twenty-five years. If the woods were continued to mean for ever and ever, you could not say there would be any surplus bog on any holding.

2831. Do landlords cut away the turf and sell it?—Oh, yes, very largely. A great deal of the turf on the Dillon estate is within the ambit of tenants' holdings. The rent in many instances was fixed on the basis that the landlord had a right to put in anyone he liked to cut turf on the holding. Landlords charge sometimes sums varying from one shilling to ten shillings for turf-balls.

2832. Mr. O'KELLY.—The tenant who gets these rights has to pay the landlord on the one hand and the tenant who has the surplus on the other?—No. If the landlord gets in any person to cut turf on the tenant's holding, it is the landlord who must pay for the trespass committed. But he can charge the person he puts in such sum as the person agrees to pay him, but the tenant on whose holding the bog is must get damage for the surface trespass.

2833. Who from?—From the person authorising a person to take the turf.

2834. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—In your experience have you found that on an estate there may be one judicial tenant with the right to turlary and another who has not?—Yes.

2835. Whenever you settle up the estate which you have dealt with and sold to the tenants do you in every case aware that the man has a right to turf?—In every case where we have the turf.

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2336. To that extent it is an improvement on what formerly prevailed with regard to future feed?—Yes. The Board undertake the distribution. We regard the bog on the estate as the fuel supply for all the tenants, unless there is a large surplus, and we undertake the distribution of that fuel among all the tenants on the assumption that one man has got as good a right to the means of keeping a fire going as another.

2337. No matter whether before the purchase he had the right or not?—Yes.

2338. In settling the price does that come in as a factor, whether a man has turf or not, in settling it?—Yes; that would affect it.

2339. But I may take it that the principle that the Congested Districts Board act on when settling to the tenants is that every tenant on the estate has a natural right to the turbarry?—Yes; if the turf is on the estate.

2340. Mr. BAYEN.—Does not the Board make any provision that the tenants to whom the land is sold must not cut all the turf away?—Yes; the turbarry does under which they get the right provides that at least nine inches of bog mould must be left over the sub-soil.

2341. Do you provide they shall not sell the turbarry?—When a person gets the right of turf on another tenant's holding he only gets it for the use of his own holding and not for the purpose of sale. That is specified in the agreement.

2342. Take the case of the Dillon estate. You allocated to each tenant a certain amount of turbarry. Did you make any provision in the case of each tenant that he should not sell turf?—Any man on whose holding the bog is can sell it because the Land Acts don't give the Board any power to restrain him, but the tenants who have not got the turf on their holdings but have to get it on another holding, are restricted from selling.

2343. But the Board on settling the estate may make any conditions they like?—No. They have to sell the estate on an approved sale agreement form, the terms of which are settled by the Land Commission. They cannot alter it in any way.

2344. Sir JOHN COLSON.—The man is the owner of the turbarry as well as the holding subject to an annuity?—He is the owner in law of what he gets.

2345. Mr. BAYEN.—Some of these tenants on the Dillon estate had not the right of turbarry when you bought it. You have given them the right of turbarry by allocating a plot to them?—Yes.

2346. You vary the terms in that way. The man's holding is not the same as when you bought it?—It is the same. They were all supplied with turbarry previously, but supplied with it from year to year. We apportioned all the turbarry on the estate among them, giving each one a defined plot, which is all the turf he has available for his holding in the future.

2347. If you have no power it cannot be helped, but I should have thought it would have been a very desirable thing to have had power to keep an asset like that, to give it up to the State to be maintained as long as it lasted for the good of the estate and the prosperity of the tenants on the estate, so as to prevent it being sold off for other purposes?—It would be useful in some cases, but in other cases where there is a surplus it would be unnecessary. Many tenants earn a good deal of money by cutting turf and selling it in the neighbouring towns. It is often a supplementary means of income.

2348. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is there much danger of the turf supply of Ireland becoming exhausted?—Over a very large area of Ireland the turf supply is very limited. It will be a very serious question before fifty years unless some cheap form of fuel can be discovered, or some means of manufacturing peat in a way that will cheapen the transport of it from certain portions of the country, like the Bog of Allen, or places of that kind, where it is abundant.

2349. Is the soil under the turf used for land?—It is reclaimed after the turf is removed. It is brought under cultivation.

2350. That is one of the main reclamations of land?—Yes.

2351. I presume the sub-soil is not good in all cases?—It is not.

2352. Does the bog ever rest on rock?—Sometimes; usually on clay.

2353. The CHAIRMAN.—Have you ever thought how that tendency to sell turf might be checked for the purposes of the State?—I think it would be a very good thing to give the Land Commission or the Con-

gested Districts Board a discretionary power to prohibit the sale of turf in places where they thought it was not advisable.

2354. Mr. O'KELLY.—You are aware that in many parts of the country the tenant farmers make more out of turf than they do out of their holdings by the sale of turf?—That is so with small holders adjacent to bog, very frequently.

2355. And, in fact, without the turf they would hardly be able to live?—In such cases the Land Commission would not be likely to restrict the sale of turf.

2356. The CHAIRMAN.—That would make a very invidious distinction?—Then you must leave it as it is. There are only the two alternatives.

2357. Would not it be possible to prohibit any people who buy under the Land Acts from selling turf?—It would not be desirable in some cases, because the neighbouring districts would suffer if a tenant who had a surplus bog on his holding could not sell turf. Very often he sells it to the tenant of a holding who has no turf, and it is a great advantage to the tenant of the latter holding to be able to buy his turf from the man who has surplus bog. Very frequently it is a great advantage to the man who has the surplus bog, as sale of turf affords a way of finding profitable employment for himself and his family.

2358. Mr. O'KELLY.—Would not it be equally hard on the people in towns if the selling of turf was prohibited?—It would have the effect of making their fuel dearer.

2359. Sir JOHN COLSON.—As I understand your proposition is on these lines: when property is sold to tenants the turbarry should be laid out on a computation of some period of years, and the balance should be held as a Government reserve for future use?—That is practically my suggestion—that the Board should have the power, or the Land Commission should have power, to reserve all surplus turbarry on an estate, so as to give them control over the future fuel supply.

2360. Mr. BAYEN.—May I point out it really affects the security of the annuity to the Land Commission or the Congested Districts Board, and the Government in some form or another is prejudiced if the turf is cut away before the annuity is finally paid?—It would, very seriously.

2361. Therefore, it seems to me that a discretion on that point is very much wanted indeed?—I think so. This turbarry question has been too lightly treated in the drafting of the Land Acts. I don't think the importance of it was fully appreciated.

2362. Mr. O'KELLY.—In any case it won't reach a crisis for some sixty or seventy years?—In some places it has reached it already; and a very serious crisis.

2363. Sir JOHN COLSON.—You merely propose that the Government should treat turbarry as minerals are treated under the Act?—Yes.

2364. All important bogs to be sold under the Purchase Act and not allotted before sale should be reserved. But my point is, do you mean that your proposal would involve in the allotment before sale some period for computing the quantity—it does involve it, does it not?—It does.

2365. Just with that addition to yours—I am merely repeating your proposal?—Yes. After supplying the tenants of an estate with a reasonable supply of turf, and where there was sufficient, I would say that the supply allotted to each one should be at least sufficient to cover the entire period over which the repayment of the annuity extends, and any surplus after that the Land Commission would have power to allocate to other tenants who have no turf.

2366. That means, really, that when you are conveying to a tenant his holding as an annuitant you will give him turf enough for 60½ years?—Yes, if it be available.

2367. Don't you think, considering the character of the people, and how they discount the future, as we are all inclined to do, the effect of it would be to encourage the sale of turf—they would think it an inalienable supply?—Possibly they would.

2368. Would not it rather aggravate the position over so long a period as that?—A man might take the view that posterity might take care of itself, and he would sell turf if he could get a good price. There is one of our maps showing how we apportion turbarry (indistinct). On that estate each tenant has one of these plots. There are roads leading into them, and there is a place for the stacking of the turf.

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2858. How long do you suppose this will last?—We have given each one a supply of turf of the best quality near his house, then another plot further away, and so on. Many have three plots, and some more. It will last for seventy or eighty years if they don't sell it. That concludes my evidence as to turbary. You have dealt with some of the other matters, but I will have to refer to some of them again, because they are so important. I have handed round to the members of the Commission two returns, based on the Census of 1891 and 1901, which I will ask the Commission to look at. They deal with the question of the £14,000,000 worth of land, about which there appears to be some misconception.*

2859. Mr. O'KELLY.—That is referred to in Memorandum B?—I don't know anything about Memorandum B, but I want to explain now this return, headed Census 1901. It gives in the first column each of the counties containing congested districts. In the second column you have the total congested area in each county. The third column gives the population in 1891.

2860. Sir Francis Mowatt.—That is not the complete area of the counties; it represents only the congested area?—Yes; it is the area of what is called the congested districts county, which is that portion of the county scheduled as congested.

2870. Sir John Cosgrave.—The difference of figures will be accounted for by the discretion which the Lord Lieutenant exercised within twelve months of the passing of the Act?—The difference will be accounted for by the non-scheduled portions.

2871. These figures don't agree—for 1891 and 1901?—No.

2872. The difference is accounted for by the exercise by the Lord Lieutenant of the power given to him by the Act?—No. These figures I give include the detached divisions specially scheduled by the Lord Lieutenant. The difference in area indicated by the figures for the two periods is accounted for by changes in the county boundary under the Local Government Act. The third column gives the population in 1891. The fourth column gives the poor law valuation in 1891. The fifth column the poor law valuation per head of the population. The sixth column the acres per head of the population. The next column the average poor law valuation per acre; and then the last two columns give the annual value of the land that would be required if all the holdings within the congested area of each county were raised to an average of £2 per head of the population, that is to the economic standard of a £10 holding. The last column gives the approximate average, assuming the land you could get would be worth 10s. per statute acre per annum.

2873. Mr. Bayne.—The average poor law valuation would be that?—I take it as that. That is how the £14,000,000 was got. Take Kerry. According to the 1891 Census the area in statute acres was 661,642 acres, the population was 86,941, the poor law valuation was £25,376. The poor law valuation per head of the population in Kerry was £2 1s. 2d. The acres per head of the population in the scheduled districts were 7.59. The average value per acre of these acres was 2.64 shillings. The poor law valuation per head was £2 1s. 2d., and to increase the poor law valuation up to £2 by the addition of land alone would mean that you would have to get £80,000 worth of land for Kerry, or rather land of the annual value of £80,000. That would be 150,000 acres of 10s. an acre.

2874. Sir John Cosgrave.—Eight-ninths of the total valuation of the congested districts county?—I did not look into that. I will give the rate per head without making out all the figures. In Galway the poor law valuation per head of the population in the congested districts is 17s. 10d., and to raise that to an average of £2 per head would require land of the annual value of £83,350. In Donegal the average per head is 18s.

2875. Mr. Bayne.—You need not read out all those figures. What I want to understand is where the £14,000,000 worth of land comes from?—In the second last column you find that in order to raise the valuation per head of the entire of the congested districts by the addition of land alone you would require land of the annual value of £548,861, and taking that annual value at twenty-five years' purchase it would come approximately to £14,000,000.

2876. The CHAIRMAN.—When you talk about the area in the congested districts is that the whole of the scheduled area?—That includes the entire of the scheduled districts.

2877. That includes the estates already dealt with?—Yes; everything. They won't affect it much.

2878. Mr. O'KELLY.—Do you think this return gives any idea of the amount of land necessary to relieve congestion. It strikes me that the low valuation in Galway is due to Connaught. For that whole region you would not need any land at all—I was coming to that. The £14,000,000 that was named to you already as the capital value of the land required was calculated on the assumption that you could by land alone raise the valuation per head of population of the entire of the scheduled districts to an equivalent of an economic holding—namely, £2 per head of the population.

2879. Let us assume you were excluding all the occupants along the west coast, don't you think the number would be more than made up by the inclusion of the uneconomic and congested holdings in the non-scheduled areas?—I cannot give you any opinion on that. I have no information as to the extent of the congestion which exists outside the scheduled areas.

2880. Do you think the number of uneconomic holdings in the congested counties outside the scheduled areas would be 50,000 when we know that in the County of Mayo we have 8,000 uneconomic holdings outside the congested area?—It is a matter I would not think of making a guess at, because it might be very misleading.

2881. Don't you think that an estimate of the possible amount of money that would be needed to relieve congestion based upon the exclusion of the occupants of the western coast would be fallacious when not recognizing that we must include in our calculations by-and-by the number of uneconomic and congested holdings in the non-congested areas, which will be a set-off to those you exclude?—I am here only to give information as to the scheduled areas.

2882. Our terms of reference are to inquire into the congestion outside that?—Don't ask me about that, for I have no information prepared for you.

2883. I suppose you will give us some information?—I should be only too pleased to give you any information that I possess, but for the present my statements have reference to the scheduled districts alone. As I explained yesterday, I have divided the congested districts into A, the maritime; B, the district east of the maritime from which, in my opinion, a sufficient number of landholders would not migrate to appreciably relieve congestion in these districts; and C, the inland districts of Connaught, from which, in my opinion, a sufficient number would migrate into the open areas adjacent to relieve congestion in C. I will, therefore, give you the figures for Connaught 1891. Turn to the Census returns for 1901, and it will interest you to observe how the rate per head of the population in these congested districts has gone up since the Census of 1891, the explanation, being the rather melancholy one, that the rate per head of the population has gone up by reason of emigration. In Mayo the valuation per head in the 1901 Census is £1 0s. 2d., the acres per head of the population are 6.8, and the average poor law valuation per acre 3s. The valuable value of the land required for Mayo, if the maritime district A in my map, and also B, were excluded, would be £27,766. I will take Roscommon next, and then I will explain on the map. The average valuation per head of the population in Roscommon is £1 0s. 5d., the acres per head 6.2, the average poor law valuation per acre, 6s. 3d.; and to raise all the holdings in the congested areas of Roscommon to an average of £2 per head would require land of the annual value of £20,698, as against £108,168 in Mayo. The next county is Galway. In Galway the average valuation per head is £1 0s. 4d., acres per head 8.2, average valuation per acre 2s. 6d., and the amount of land required, excluding again the districts marked on the map A and B, the land you would require in the remainder, which is really only a very small part of Galway, would be of the annual value of £20,768. In Leitrim the average valuation at present is over the scheduled standard, it is £1 10s. 6d. The acres per head in Leitrim are 9.6. The average valuation per acre is 5s. 8d., and the land required to raise all those to an average valuation of £2 would be of an annual valuation of £14,836.

*See pp. 329 and 332.

2284. The CHAIRMAN.—Have you any maritime district in Lettrine 1?—There is a very small bit in Lettrine which touches the sea near Ballyshannon. In 1890 the average valuation per head is £1 9s. 4d., the number of acres per head is 5.5, the valuation per head is £s. 4d., the amount of land required to bring it up to £2, and excluding again the maritime districts, would be of the annual valuation of £10,638. Before you go into the other counties, as I have already pointed out to the Commission, the land question in Connemara has special features. I think it is well to explain now how much land may be assumed to be available for the purpose of meeting the requirements indicated by the figures I have given you, applying the phrase untenanted land to all non-residential holdings.

2285. Mr. KAVANAGH.—In Connemara only 1.—Yes.

2286. Mr. BURKE.—Before you start on that I wish to understand does that apply mainly to the relief of the districts marked C 1?—Yes; that is, if you will adopt the view I put before the Commission that it is only from C a considerable number will go; but I would like to make clear that if people wish to come from A and B they should not be refused if they are suitable. I will begin with Mayo. This map (indicated) shows, edged by a blue line, the entire County of Mayo. All the estates coloured yellow upon it are untenanted estates purchased by the Board. The lands you see coloured green all over the county are grass lands held in tenements of £25 valuation and upwards. Those portions that you see coloured green, striped over with brown, represent mountain land, mountain grazing. This (indicated) is the district of Ballynure, which some members of the Commission know to be a mountainous, wild district. This is the headland near Broadhaven; that Erris Head, which is mountainous; and this green portion near Belmullet are non-residential tenements of £25 valuation and upwards, which may be used as agricultural land. That black line there (indicated) corresponds with the eastern boundary of R. I have already stated that in my opinion no considerable number of the landholders west of this black line would migrate, and you must look to some other means for improving the condition of the people there. Then, as to the enlargement of holdings, you see at once from the map that there is very little agricultural land in that large area, only a small part here about Belmullet and Blackwell Bay, this large area here (indicated), being of very low arable value, and there is practically no suitable untenanted land in that part of Mayo which would be bounded on its eastern side by a line drawn from Newport to the coast near Ballycastle. Migration is out of the question then for the present, at any rate. You have a very poor population there, who need very special attention and special treatment. You cannot look to migration to relieve them, and I think that agricultural development, to which I was referring before lunch, should be the chief means through which their condition could be substantially improved, after you have done everything you ought to do in the way of developing the fishery along the coast. N on this map represents non-congested areas and C represents congested areas. This is the boundary between the congested and non-congested areas of Mayo (indicated). You will see also from the map that the Board have purchased a considerable portion of the County Mayo, the Dillon, Bingham, Burke Estates; the Mitchell, Portgall, and Lynch, which cover over thirty square miles on the western side of Lough Mask, and where the Board's operations have substantially improved the condition of the landholders. All these green patches (indicated) represent tenements of £25 valuation and upwards which have been defined. Some of my staff attended the Valuation Office in Dublin, and copied on to our maps all tenements of over £25 valuation that appeared to have either no buildings upon them or buildings of such small value that they appeared to be only huts or houses. After they got that information they went into the districts with these maps and interviewed the rate-collectors, eliminating from their lists all such holdings as they learned

were residential, and finally only put on this map all such tenements as were non-residential. The total annual value of such tenements in Mayo is £40,678, while I have already told you it would take £87,350 worth of land to raise to the £2 per head standard what there is in the County Mayo, excluding A and B, so that even all the land in Mayo would not bring the valuation in C up to more than, roughly, 30s. per head.

2287. Suppose you include the residential 1—I did not go into that. I don't propose to disturb residential people except under exceptional circumstances.

2288. The CHAIRMAN suggested it might be necessary to do so 1.—And I have indicated what I thought should be done.

2289. You have no estimate of the amount of this land available?—In fact I was afraid that my proposal as I am putting it now, in the most moderate terms, would not be listened to.

2290. We are not legislating. We are only inquiring?—I would like you to keep those figures in mind when you come to Roscommon, which adjoins the east of Mayo. Some of you have heard of Roscommon as mainly a grazing country. As I explained yesterday, in parts of it you could go through twenty miles without seeing a human being except a herd and his family here and there. The main roads in some cases are partly covered with grass owing to the chance of traffic. The place is more melancholy in my opinion than the wilds of Connemara, because you have good land and no population to work it or turn it to the best account. It is very near some of the worst congested districts in Mayo. There is the Dillon estate (indicated). Portion of it is in Mayo, and here a portion running into Ballaghaderreen, which was in the County Mayo, but is now in the County Roscommon, according to the new boundaries fixed by the Local Government Act. The Board also bought the DeFoyne estate. The DeFoyne and Dillon estates join together. The DeFoyne, Dillon, and Murphy estates cover the whole country between Ballaghaderreen and Castlerea. This is the DeFoyne; this is the Murphy estate, and the Walsh estate is here (indicated). In those estates, which the Board have purchased like the Dillon, you will observe that there is some grass, and the green is hatched across to show that it is grazing lands which have been disposed of to the tenants. Whenever the green colour on the Board's estates is hatched off, that indicates it is disposed of to the tenants. Near the DeFoyne and Dillon estates you get into a district which is without population. It is composed mainly of non-residential tenements of over £25 valuation. This would apply pretty generally to the centre and south of the county; the untenanted land is mainly in the unions of Strokestown, Castlebar, and Roscommon. The portions of the green which you see encircled with red are grass farms which the Board have purchased and now hold here and there in the hope that they would be able to buy all the intervening land, but they are not able to progress in that direction, and for that reason I suggest they should have power to buy on black from these points on towards the congested districts, and if they require more later on to operate eastwards. I don't see any other way in which they can settle the question. I will read the figures for Roscommon. The poor low valuation of the land coloured green on the map is £65,538. I have already told you that to raise the valuation of these holdings in the scheduled area of Roscommon to the £2 per head limit would require only £20,078 annual valuation of land.* So you have in Roscommon land of a valuation of £65,538 where you only want land of a valuation of £20,078 to meet the requirements of the scheduled areas in that county. That would have over, more than £40,000 worth of land in annual valuation which, if applied to Mayo, would substantially make up the value that Mayo needs. Taking the two counties together, you could with the lands coloured green in Mayo and Roscommon bring up to an average of £10 the holdings in the congested portions of Mayo, excluding A and B, and in the congested portions of Roscommon. You would be short on the whole transaction only to the extent of about £1,824 annual value of

Sept. 15, 1894.

Mr. H. Dore.

* See Questions 2203-34. The valuation of the land required to raise all holdings in any area to the standard of £10 valuation can be estimated, as for all figures so, only by first ascertaining the total valuation of all holdings below £10. Statistics giving the information are being prepared. See p. 231-2.

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Mr. H.
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land. These are the only two counties as to which I am able to give you what I consider to be reliable statistics as to non-residential tenements made out by my own staff in the way I explained. For the other counties the only way I could get the information required was that I applied to the rate-collector of each district of the county to furnish a list of the non-residential tenements in his collection, and these lists when totted up, as far as they have been supplied to me, give the following figures. In Galway there are non-residential holdings of a rateable value of £25 and upwards, amounting to a total valuation of £56,566, while the congested districts of Galway, excluding A and B on the map, would only require £20,788 worth of land. So on those figures there would be a surplus of about £46,000 annual value of land. In Galway, then, you have far more land of that character than would seem to be required for the portion of the scheduled districts in the county from which a large number of landholders would be likely to migrate. How much would be required in addition to meet Mr. Conor O'Kelly's point as to congested localities in the county outside the scheduled area I cannot at present tell. The lists which the rate-collectors have furnished me with from Leitrim show only £3,530 worth, in annual value, of non-residential tenements where some £14,000 worth would be required. In Sligo there are £39,144 annual value of non-residential tenements. Taking the congested districts of Sligo, and excluding the maritime portions, we only require £16,680 worth of land, so that we have in Sligo double the amount of non-residential tenements that would appear to be necessary. In the scheduled districts of Connaught alone on the basis of those figures there is £196,790 annual value of land held by non-residential occupiers. Clare I exclude, because there is only one electoral division scheduled in Clare, and that would require only about

£36 worth of land to bring it up to the £2 standard. In Cork, according to the lists furnished to me, there are non-residential tenements of the character referred to to the annual value of £68,959. In Donegal the figure is £9,487, but I do not consider that a complete list. In Kerry the figure totalled from the rate-collectors' returns is £10,031 annual value.

2891. Why is the last column blank in your table in the case of all these Munster counties?—Because I have stated that in my opinion no considerable number of people will migrate in those counties.

2892. There is one rather remarkable thing in the Roscommon census for 1901 as compared with 1891, is that the population has risen by 5,000 in the ten years, while in all the other counties it has fallen heavily—how do you account for that?—It was owing to the change in the county boundary. Portion of what is now north-west Roscommon was in the County Mayo before the change in the county boundary.

2893. Does the same cause account for the diminution in the acreage in Mayo?—Yes, it also accounts largely for the diminution in the population of Mayo, because a considerable slice was taken off Mayo and added to Roscommon.

2894. The number of acres per head has not increased so much in Mayo as in other counties?—That has arisen probably from the alteration of the county boundaries. To deal with Connaught and to bring the population of the congested areas in C up to the standard of £2 per head of the population would require land of the annual value of £154,417, and in my opinion, including houses and everything, the approximate price, if you want to get it like that, would be about £4,600,000.

2895. That £154,000 is the totalisation of the last column but one in the 1901 figures?—Yes.

The Commission adjourned.

SEVENTH PUBLIC SITTING.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 1906,

AT 10.30 O'CLOCK A.M.

At 55, Dawson street, Dublin.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUDLEY, G.C.V.O. (Chairman); The Right Hon. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL, G.C.S.I.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMER, K.C.M.G.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANKAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; CONOR O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. HENRY DORAN further examined.

2296. The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. DORAN, I want to start our discussion to-day so as if possible to take up at the exact point where we left off last night. You handed in last night very interesting statistics, and I am afraid that I shall have to make certain criticisms with regard to the figures which you have given us, and I will want you to understand that I do not make those criticisms in any captious spirit. I realise, and I am sure that all my colleagues realise, that a return of this kind is by no means easy to make out, and I am sure we are very grateful to you and to your staff for having, as far as possible, put us in the position of estimating the problem with which we have to deal, and I am sure you understand that we have got to be very careful where figures are concerned, and that we have to sift those figures as far as possible so as to enable the Government to judge exactly what is the present position?—Yes, my lord.

2297. Well, now, if you take this bigger Return, founded on the Census of 1901, you have taken the five different counties of Connaught. In Mayo, for instance, you show us there that the population in 1901 in the congested areas of Mayo was 130,307 people, and the poor law valuation was £351,543, which brings out the valuation per head at £1 0s 3d. Your desire is to raise that to £2 per head, or, on a calculation of five per family, to £10 per tenement. That is so, is it not?—Yes, my lord.

2298. And in order to do this, you tell us that in the whole of Mayo, congested and non-congested, there is £40,092 worth of non-residential tenement of £25 and upwards?—Yes, land of the annual value of £40,092.

2299. Now, the first point I wish to make to you is this. Your desire is to bring out an average of £20 per tenement, and you say that if the whole of the non-residential land in Mayo and Roscommon were available and used, that it would bring out the average valuation at £10 per tenement?—At £2 per head of the population, my lord.

2301. For the Counties of Mayo and Roscommon?—For the two counties your figures show that all the residential tenements of £25 and upwards, as shown on my maps for those counties, would be insufficient to the extent of about £1,500 per year to raise the average rate per head of the population to £2—the average rate I would like to emphasise.

2302. £1,500 is a very small figure. We may say, roughly, that the land available in non-residential tenements of £25 and upwards in the Counties of Mayo and Roscommon would, joined together, be sufficient, on your calculation, to raise in those two counties the valuation per head of population to £2?—Including the districts A and B, marked on the map, that is the maritime and district inland of the maritime, not adjacent to the non-congested districts. Of course your lordship will understand that Roscommon is an inland county, and that there is no part of it excluded.

2303. No. Now, Mr. DORAN, does not it strike you that you want more land?—That is the minimum, my lord. I consider that that is obvious from my statement when I say that the figures I gave would be barely sufficient to bring the average rate of the holdings to £10. A number of holdings would still be under £10.

2304. It surely would not be enough even to bring the average rate to £2 per head, for this reason, that you have at present in the congested areas a certain number of tenements of over £25 valuation?—Yes; I shall give you the particulars of those separately in another form.

2305. You have a certain number of them in the congested areas. If you are going to bring up the whole average to £10, you must exclude the valuation of all those tenements in the congested areas which are now over £25 valuation; otherwise the only way in which you can arrive at an average is to reduce them?—Yes; that statement is quite accurate; that is to say, when I give you the average valuation per head of the congested districts in Mayo; as I do in that Return, that includes any non-residential land within the district.

2306. It is included in the £131,000?—Yes; it includes any unoccupied land, and I thought it would be better to present the case in that way than to make it still more complicated for the purposes of comparison by adding, to the area of land which would be necessary to bring the average per head of the population to £2, so much of that area as was within the congested districts.

2307. That is another point. What I mean is this. You have a certain number of tenements of over £10 valuation at present in the congested areas?—Yes.

2308. If you are going to bring up all holdings to a minimum standard of £10 you must exclude from your calculation of the value of the land to be operated upon all holdings above that figure unless, indeed, you were going to level down all larger holdings, even those between £10 and £25 valuation. Is not that so?—Yes; but I thought it more convenient for the purposes of comparison to show in an approximate manner the area required, or that was likely to be secured under the most favourable conditions that I could imagine. That was the best way I thought of presenting the case.

2309. What we have to try to do is to see that no tenement is under a valuation of £10?—Of course, that is another question altogether. I was not discussing it at all in that way. What I understand, my lord, is that, that you now suggest that there would be no holding under £10 valuation.

2310. That is so. Is not that the right view?—I was going on the basis throughout of bringing these up to an average of £10, which would mean that if there were so many thousands at £5, and an equal number of thousands at £15, you would have an average of £10.

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2911. Yes; but that assumption unduly reduces the problem. The average is not the standard. We want to start from the assumption that we are going to raise everybody to a minimum standard!—My figures would enable you to do that if you could level up and down, if you could cut off a surplus off a big man and give it to a small man; and they are the minimum figures.

2912. But my point is that there must be a great number of people whom you could hardly level up and down in that way, people who are not big enough to be put through a process of that kind!—I can present to you, my lord, the figures in the way you suggest at your next sitting, if the Commission desire it.

2913. I think it would be better if you could tell us the amount of land that would be required, and that is available, not for the purpose of bringing out an average of £10, but for the purpose of bringing all the holdings in the congested areas up to £10!—I understand that you would have no holding under that. I look upon that suggestion as impossible in practice.

The CHAIRMAN.—I think it is the ideal we have to keep in view.

2914. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say, Mr. Doran, that this represents the minimum!—The minimum.

2915. But, I am sorry to tell you that it represents something very much below the minimum. That is our difficulty. You must strike out of the calculation everybody between £10 and £25 valuation!—Yes.

2916. Then you have only got those below to raise!—Yes.

2917. Therefore you must except, as I understand it, from the calculation everybody between £10 and £25, and then see how much land we want to raise those below £10 up to £10!—I can do that also.

2918. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You have told us about all the land available!—I have given you particulars of the non-residential land. If my figures are much below the minimum required you could not get the additional land in those counties, and you should go further inland.

2919. The CHAIRMAN.—That is my point, that your figures of the Counties Mayo and Roscommon would lead us to believe that there was sufficient land available to solve the difficulties with regard to your districts marked C!—Well, I am so accustomed to alarm the representatives of the Government by stating these problems in their full dimensions that I really thought the most effective way to put my case was to see on the side of extreme moderation, not only in my statement of the quantity of land required, but in my statements generally. I should be very glad to be invited to give it in your way, my lord.

2920. I think you must, Mr. Doran. The idea is a level of £10 per law valuation!—I stated yesterday that in many districts an economic holding may be much less than that. It may be down to £5.

2921. Yes, you have told us that as regards Clare and £10 seems generally accepted, and is what we have in our minds, and therefore what we want as figures which will show us the number of people below £10, and the amount of land necessary and available to raise all those people up to the valuation of £10!—Am I to go outside the counties containing congested districts?

2922. Well, we will come to that later!—Well, you will see, as I have just said, I have tried to state the case in the most moderate proportions I could think of. I was confining myself exclusively to the congested districts and to the counties containing those districts. I did not go outside them.

2923. Your last scheme applies to the whole of the counties, scheduled or not!—To the whole of the counties containing scheduled districts.

2924. To the land of the whole county, irrespective altogether of whether the whole of that land is scheduled!—Oh, the whole of it is not scheduled in any of these cases.

2925. Now there is another point. Does not a part of the land, which you include in column 10 of Table II., namely, those non-residential tenements of a rateable value of £25 and upwards in congested districts

also appear in the fourth column, in which you give us the total poor law valuation?—Yes.

2926. For the congested areas!—Yes; I have stated that. That includes all the land, whether in the congested or non-congested areas, in the county, but my returns give the area separately.

2927. That should be deducted!—That should be deducted, if you work it out in that way.

2928. From the £40,000 worth in Mayo, for instance, you should really deduct all the residential land of £25 valuation and upwards which is within the congested areas of Mayo!—Yes.

2929. And which appears in the gross total of £135,000 of the Poor Law Valuation of the congested districts of Mayo!—Then, my lord, I would ask you to postpone the further consideration of this Table till the next sitting, when I would have the two Tables which you could compare. I think that would be more satisfactory, my lord.

2930. Mr. O'KELLY.—Would it be possible to have a copy of the new Table before the Commission meet!—I think so.

2931. You can have this before the Commission meet!—Yes.

2932. The CHAIRMAN.—I am perfectly ready to leave it like that, and I don't want to make any further remarks about this Table, except this, that of course, Mr. Doran, we must remember, must not be, that this land which you tell us is available in County Mayo, namely, land to the rateable value of £40,000, is intended, in your mind, only for its dealing with the problem as it is to be found in the scheduled congested districts, exclusive of A and B!—Yes.

2933. We have to remember that there are probably a considerable number of local claims outside the scheduled areas upon that £40,000 worth!—Yes, and other patches of congestion are very numerous in Mayo.

2934. And that therefore with regard to local claims on any unimproved land or non-residential land, the local claims have really got to be satisfied before we can regard that land as available for the solution of the problem as regards C!—Well when I am preparing this second Table for you I will make provision for showing all the uneconomic holdings outside the scheduled districts but within the county.

2935. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Will you have statistics to show that?—Yes; on the valuation of the holdings I can do that.

2936. The CHAIRMAN.—I am afraid that all this is giving you a great deal of trouble!—Yes, but as this Table deals with millions of money, and as you are not alarmed it will be a genuine pleasure to me to put before you the larger figures. You were saying that you wished to hear about these suggestions. Perhaps as it would take up so much of your time we should pass over the first part.

2937. We want to hear you fully!—About finding suitable migrants, it is a matter of importance under the powers of the Congested Districts Board. Do not think, my lord, as a member of the Congested Districts Board, that is a matter I should take—the character of the migrants?

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Certainly. If you ask me it would be desirable that you should go through all your headings.

2938. Sir JAMES CONNELL.—That, I think, commences after your remarks about tithery!—I think if I begin there it might be the shortest way. On the estates purchased before the passing of the Land Act of 1903 there were 21,691 acres of unimproved land. Of the total 24,785 acres were utilized for the enlargement of holdings on the Board's estates and 5,998 for migrants, who were settled on new holdings. I should like to draw the attention of the Commission to the fact that in all cases where the Board get land convenient to congested or uneconomic holdings they utilize the unimproved land for enlargement of the holdings when stripping, and increase holdings not needing stripping by additional parcels. They can carry out these operations without any loss to their funds, and when a tenant can get an addition to his old holding within a reasonable distance, say within a mile, it is the arrangement that tenants like best, and it involves less expense inasmuch as there are so few houses to be built, and consequently the Board, in all cases where they could so dispose of land, that is, for enlargement, have done so, and have only utilized such

* See pp. 288-3.

† See p. 331.

‡ See footnote p. 132.

§ See p. 314.

land for migration where the tenants needing enlargement were too far from it to get parcels of it as an inducement to their existing holdings. To give an idea of the very poor class of tenants that the Board have been obliged to deal with in their migration schemes, I would point out that the area of the migrants' old holdings varied from one acre and thirty perches to thirty-six acres. Most of that thirty-six acres was bog. They averaged about seventeen acres of poor land. Of those holdings 161 were at rents of £4 and under. Twenty-nine were over £4 and not exceeding £6, and eighty were over £6. The rents varied from 15s. to £14 15s. in one case, and the average rent of the migrants' holdings worked out at £5 10s. Now, that will show you at once that the migrants the Board were obliged to deal with were practically poorer landholders. The Board have always tried to get larger people to move if they could do so, because on moving one large landholder from the congested area the land vacated by him enabled the Board to benefit a number of the adjoining occupiers, while when they migrate a man, like one I have just mentioned, with one acre and thirty perches of a holding and a rent of 15s., the migration of that man practically only benefits himself, because the addition of his 15s. worth of land to an adjoining occupier's small holding makes scarcely an appreciable difference in his condition. The area of the 260 new holdings, that is the new holdings that were provided up to March, 1905, varied from eleven acres one rood thirty-four perches to thirty-three acres, and they average about twenty-seven acres. Only fifty-nine of the 260 are under twenty acres, and these new holdings would not have been made of such small areas only that the land was not available.

2540 Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—The new holdings you speak of were those to which you sent migrants?—Yes.

2541 The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Doran, could you tell us what is the average valuation of these new holdings?—Yes, my lord, I will come to that. The rents vary from 35 to £24, and average £14 6s., and only 65 holdings have rents of less than £10. Where a holding of less than £10 was created it was created under exceptional circumstances; that is, we had not the land, as in parts of Connaught, and where we were obliged to move some of the tenants from the crowded villages into the open area of unwatered land on the estate in order to strip the very congested villages, and get some of the houses that were grouped in a very unsanitary state removed, and thus enable the owners of the houses allowed to remain to make the surroundings of their homes more sanitary.

2542 Mr. BRYCE.—I suppose, Mr. Doran, the valuation and rent may be taken as the same thing. You say the average rent was £14 6s. I suppose the poor low valuation would be roughly much about the same thing?—Yes; I think it would average very much the same. Of the entire number I have spoken of, namely, 260, 38 holdings with a rental of £553 were sold under the 1896 Act, that is subject to 4 per cent. annuities, for the sum of £31,912, the annuities amounting to £476. My object in giving you these figures is that you may compare the rental of these holdings with the amount of the annuities. The rental is stated to be £553, and the annuities £476. The remaining 220 holdings, with a rental of £2,328, were sold under the Act of 1903 for a sum of £68,170, with annuities at 3½ per cent. amounting to £2,844.

2543 Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Can you say, Mr. Doran, whether the annuities on the Board's holdings that were sold bore to the fair rent the same or a greater or less proportion than the proportion which the annuities on holdings sold by the Estates Commissioners bear to the fair rent. How do your annuities compare with those on the holdings sold by the Estates Commissioners?—I have no idea; we hear a great deal about co-ordination and all that, but there is no evidence of it between these two Departments. The Estates Commissioners give us no information, and I thought my action might be misunderstood if I or any of my staff went on their estates to compare their methods and results with ours.

2544 It is most desirable that we should know!—As far as current statements go in the districts where the Board are operating I am informed that the Board's annuities are much less than the Estates Commissioners' annuities.

2545 Compared with the same standard of the fair rent?—Yes, with the fair rent.

2546 Mr. O'KEEFE.—I suppose you would not be able to tell us how the annuities on the Clannor estate agree with, or differ from, and to what extent as compared with the annuities on the Knocknashill estate?—The best answer I can give you is that I am informed, and I believe, the annuities paid by the Board's tenants on Knocknashill are very much lower than the annuities charged by the Estates Commissioners on Clannor estate.

2547 Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It is most desirable that there should be definite information on that matter?—Well, if you wish me and the Estates Commissioners to give you that information, Sir Anthony, I am quite ready.

2548 The CHAIRMAN.—Can you give us the information so far as the Board is concerned when we come back to Dublin?—Am I free to act in the matter?

2549 Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Certainly. We must have the information?—To take such steps as I think necessary to give you the information?

2550 The CHAIRMAN.—As far as your own department is concerned we will ask you for this information, and for the figures?—The only mode of getting the information necessary for comparison would be by going on the lands of the Estates Commissioners and estimating the fair rent of their cases as we did in our cases.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The better way is to instruct our secretary to address the Estates Commissioners as to what we want to find out, and then let you and them confer together as to the best way of finding it out.

2551 Sir JOHN CECILIA.—In making a comparison of that sort between the amounts of the annuities on properties sold to the tenants under the Estates Commissioners and on properties sold by the Congested Districts Board, do you take into account that in the one case it is merely stereotyping the conditions of the property, and in the other the annuity represents not merely the purchase money but the expenditure on increasing the value and the economic condition of the property?—I would have to answer you in the affirmative, Sir John, though it may be a reflection upon the work of the Estates Commissioners.

2552A That cannot be helped; it may or may not be the case; we don't inquire; but, take it that, in any comparison of the annuities resulting from the sale to the tenants by the Estates Commissioners with the annuities of tenants created by the Congested Districts Board it is in the one case stereotyping, and making no improvement!—Generally speaking, the property is left in the same state it was, while in the other the economic conditions of the property have been improved.

2552B Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That was not my ideal—I understand Sir ANTHONY's observation only applies to unwatered land in both cases.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I did not mean that. In all these cases, Sir John, the standard is fair rent. It will be fair rent if the land is sold by the Estates Commissioners. It will be fair rent if a congested holding has been improved.

2553 Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are you in a position to give the information as required. How can we contrast the annuities charged under the Estates Commissioners on their estates and those charged on the estates that have been under the Congested Districts Board unless we ascertain whether the standard of valuation observed by the Estates Commissioners is exactly the same as your standard of valuation?—It can only be done on that basis, my lord, by my viewing and having a valuation made of the holdings, and I will ask Sir Anthony for authority to take such measures as would enable me to submit to you valuations of holdings sold by both bodies as a standard of comparison. I would ask to be allowed to value some of the Estates Commissioners' holdings, and they to do likewise with the Board's.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Yes, and you can confer with each other and see what standard you both work up to.

2554 Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It is not enough to have the information from you, and to have the information from the Estates Commissioners as to these annuities. We have then got to ascertain that the standard is either the same which you and they follow, or the proportion of difference!—The best way would be to nominate an independent man who does not care about either Department to give you his valuation, instead of getting it from a representative of each Department. Naturally, I

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would be in favour of my own Department, and they would be in favour of their Department. So that if you could appoint a man who was absolutely independent of both you would have the most satisfactory result.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Will you put your heads together and see what is best to be done.

2965. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Did not you make a suggestion that the Estates Commissioners and yourself might consider that jointly?—I did.

2966. Would not that be more satisfactory than bringing in an umpire?—Well, I think it would be the more satisfactory way, because neither Department, I am sure, wants to attempt to prove that the other is not trying to do its work as well as it is able.

2967. The CHAIRMAN.—I think it is pretty clear now what is wanted, and we can discuss the methods?—I have to defend myself and my department, because the suggestion is that we are going to be absorbed, and that the Commissioners sell land cheaper than the Board.

2968. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is there a difference?—I could not tell you.

2969. Why should there be a difference?—Because there is a different staff.

2970. I am speaking of what is accomplished as a matter of fact, and there must be the means of getting the number of tenants in Ireland paying those annuities. That is actually going on now, and we must get at the difference between the annuities paid?—Mr. Sutherland asks is it possible that annuities fixed by one Department should differ from those fixed by another, and seems to be surprised that it is possible.

2971. No, I am not surprised at there being a difference, but I am surprised at there being any doubt as to the fact when so large a number of annuities is now being paid, or how it is that one Department does not know what the other is doing?—I can only answer for my own. The average rent of each holding sold under the Act of 1903 was £14 12s., and the average annuity £11 5s. That represents in the case of the Board's new holdings a comparison between the fair rent and the annuity. These figures show that the migrants came from very small holdings, and that the Board so far have not induced many of the larger landholders within the congested areas to exchange their holdings for larger or better holdings in the non-congested districts. I should, however, point out that the rents on the tenanted estates purchased by the Board are as a rule very small. Take the Dillon estate with a rental of £20,000. There were only fifty-seven tenants paying rents of £20 and upwards, and 187 tenants paying rents of from £10 to £20. That is to say, out of 4,300 and odd tenants only 254 were over £10. It cannot, however, be said that there is a disposition among the more successful or more comfortable landholders in the congested districts to leave their present holdings for better ones. That is one of our great difficulties.

2972. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Do you say that there is no disposition?—There is not. Migration is a new scheme, and as landholders have no experience of the success attending it, those who are fairly comfortable in their present circumstances but who, as a rule, have no idle money, are not keen to change to a better holding. If, however, the migrants who have been placed on new holdings succeed, the disinclination of tenants to leave their present holdings for better ones will, I have no doubt, soon disappear.

2973. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Soon disappear?—Soon disappear. Yes. That is my feeling. And provided that persons in the neighbourhood of untenanted land should cease to be hostile to the "strangers."

2974. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Or be provided for themselves?—The sons of tenants; the young people ought to be encouraged to go further inland.

2975. The CHAIRMAN.—What happens practically when you carve out a new holding on untenanted land for a man who wishes to move?—How does he manage to get along till his crops are grown?—He usually changes into it in the early spring or in November.

2976. Do you allow him to plant potatoes, &c. on the holding for some months before he actually takes possession?—No. What we are doing, my lord, is this. We generally try to get them to come in in November, and then the manure produced on the farm in the winter enables them to secure a crop in the following spring on their new holding. In other

cases where they come to the holding in May, when the only manure they have available for cropping is on the holding they are vacating, we allow them to raise their crop on the old holding for that season, paying to the tenant of the holding a certain rent for the use of the land for six months.

2977. They carry off bodily the crop?—They carry it to their new holding.

2978. Sir JOHN COLSON.—But you are now, I presume, speaking of a migrant settled somewhere convenient to his old holding?—But even if it is several miles away he can do that.

2979. Surely if he transports himself from one county to another that process is not possible?—Yes, but what we would always try to do in such a case would be to let them come into it in November, and take the crop from the old holding to the new.

2980. Yes, but your description of the process of carrying out the principle of migration would only apply to a small area where the new holding and the old would be within such reasonable distance of each other that the man could work the two holdings in that way?—It has happened in some cases that at two migrated fifteen miles, and they brought the crop they had grown on the old holding to the new holding, a distance of fifteen miles.

2981. When you begin to migrate men from Mayo right into Roscommon that would be more difficult, and how would you get rid of that difficulty?—He would probably have to bring part of the crop of the old holding to the new in order to start the first year. We try to get them in in November.

2982. The CHAIRMAN.—But if he went early enough in the spring he has got to bring the produce of his old holding?—Yes.

2983. But in any case he always has to bring something whatever part of the year he goes in?—That should be the way that most of them migrate, because they would not be able to sell their crop with advantage, and they are quite prepared to suffer a good deal of inconvenience in connection with the removal.

2984. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where was the greatest distance you ever migrated a man?—The greatest distance was one man from Glenties to Castlebar.

2985. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is the distance?—That was across the sea at the nearest point three and a half miles, and twenty miles by road then. The man had passed all his life on the island, living on a 26 holding there, and he came to live at Castlebar.

2986. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is he prospering?—He is now considered quite an up-and-up person.

2987. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What?—He is quite well off now, I am glad to say. He is on a 655 holding now.

2988. The CHAIRMAN.—What is his name?—John Whistles.

2989. Mr. O'KELLY.—Had you any difficulty in transplanting him?—He came himself. But he probably would not have left the island but that a couple of years previously some members of his family were very near being drowned, and his wife and some members of his family got so frightened and alarmed that they prayed and begged to be carried away from the possibility of a watery grave. This stimulated the man; he took the risk of coming to the place, and has succeeded splendidly. I will introduce the Commissioners to him, I hope, when they are down in that district.

2990. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How did he move, being a very poor man, anything he had?—He had to leave his crop behind. He sold it all, and he was able to buy manure in the town of Castlebar to crop the land, so that he started fairly well on the new farm. He surrendered his holding on the island, and the Board added it to the adjacent small holdings.

2991. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Did he receive a sum of money for giving up the holding?—No; we gave him a better holding. He surrendered the old holding to the Board without the payment of a shilling, and he got a better holding. But he was more or less a fortunate man. Some friend of his in America died leaving him a legacy, and he started with a little new egg.

2992. Mr. O'KELLY.—What was it?—I fancy he must have had a capital of about £100.

2993. Was he charged anything?—No; because the holding he surrendered to the Board was a 26 10s. holding, so that his interest was a substantial one. We allow for his computation interest in the holding he surrenders in estimating the price he is to be charged for the new holding.

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2294. Mr. KATAPPALE.—What was the size of his family—was he an old man?—No; he is a man about 50 or 55; perhaps 60.

2295. A wife and family?—A wife and family.

2296. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Mr. Doran, I am pleased to hear that the only case of migration from Clare Island was a successful one!—But we have 289 migrants, I am going to tell you all about.

2297. But people have been migrated much greater distances in Scotland without the slightest difficulty?—When we are more educated, as I hope we will soon be, these prejudices will, I hope, disappear from the Irish character.

2298. But I suppose when the people were sent there first no care was taken of how they got there?—Where?

2299. To those bad lands they are now sent!—Well, the history of Ireland has not satisfactory records in that respect. When one comes to look for information as to when or how the people settled in some of these places, the records are not good.

2300. Do you agree with Mr. Micks that this congestion has two principal causes, one historic and the other economic? It is reasonable to assume the first settlers did not go or remain there from choice.

2301. Would they take worse land in preference to better land?—No; but I believe that on the western coast the present population are the descendants of the original settlers there.

2302. I don't want to put that point, but merely suggested it as a reason for their going to a place where there were such disadvantages. Is it not likely that when they are going to get better land, a great many of those difficulties may be got rid of?—Yes. But I would like to answer the question as fully as I am able. In the central parts of Ireland, or in the better lands of Ireland, like Roscommon, or the better lands of Mayo, unquestionably a large proportion of the working farmers were cleared off the good land. There is proof, that under what was considered the good management of those estates, sixty to eighty years ago, what was done was that every piece of good land on the estate was fenced in and made a grass farm of, and the inferior and bad portions that were outside this area were let to tenants who were charged whatever rent the landlord thought fit. The tenants were cleared off the better land and put on the inferior land.

2303. The grass lands were then under tillage to a large extent?—Yes, to some extent.

2304. And they cleared them off these and put them on the bad lands?—Yes. The famine helped to do it, too, because a number of them were unable to pay their rents or to manage the land. The failure of the potato was very general on what are now grass lands, because the soil of a good deal of these grass lands is what I described to you the other day, very adhesive, which, in wet years, is likely to rot the potato. The lands were not at that time well farmed, and in some places it was a common practice to burn the soil for the purpose of temporarily fertilising it, for the purpose of growing a crop, but to the permanent injury of the soil. Those causes, together with the failure of the potato, enabled the landlords to clear the lands. I don't say that they did it in every case, but in some cases the landlords systematically cleared the people off the better land. The Board have bought, within the last three years, an estate where a clearance was systematically carried out, and the landlord farmed the land, so cleared, for some years. At first he made a good deal of money of it, but eventually lost a great deal of money and found it a very unprofitable undertaking, and the Board are now engaged in spending public money in undoing what he did.

2305. My question was simply directed to minimizing the difficulties with regard to migration, which I thought, rightly or wrongly, you seemed to exaggerate, but you are speaking from experience, no doubt. Because I think it is clear that without a considerable amount of migration nothing can be done in a satisfactory way to end the congestion that does undoubtedly exist in the west of Ireland?—When you say, and when you suggest, Mr. Sutherland, that I exaggerate—

2306. Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not say consciously!—But I should like to make that clear. Possibly I am exaggerating, but my view in putting my case is that

unless I make the difficulties that the Board have to contend with perfectly clear, the Commission will not have the materials to enable them to appreciate thoroughly and accurately the true situation. I am endeavouring to tell you exactly our difficulties, and at the same time you will find at the back of them all a hope that things can be put right, and if you ask me I am ready to give you my opinions and suggestions.

2307. You have hopes?—I have every hope.

2308. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do I understand that the result of your explanation is that the population along the extreme sea edge, as the result of their being turned out, from one estate or another, from their island holdings, squatted on the coast?—I know of no proof of that except the traditions that the Irish that Cromwell did not send to a warm place went to the west to Connaght.

2309. I don't want you to bring the Annals of the Four Masters in, but I thought that that was your explanation. You had been asked how it came that these people had migrated into this very poor district, and I understood your explanation to be that the circumstances of their former neighbourhood had forced them from a better island district, and that they had found their way slowly down to the coast!—No; I really have never heard of a satisfactory explanation as to why they are there, and my opinion is that they must be the descendants of the original settlers.

2310. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—We have historic evidence that they were there in the very earliest ages!—In the very earliest ages, and it is remarkable that the population in the very poor districts has reduced less than in the better parts of Ireland. A very striking instance of that is Tory Island, where the population at present is very much the same as it was fifty years ago.

2311. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—As you have gone into that, I suppose it is within your knowledge, that that very populous district of the Rosses, in the County Donegal, before the Plantation of Ulster, contained very few people indeed?—Yes.

2312. The Celtic population was driven into those places, is not that so?—I think so.

The CHAIRMAN.—I think we should close this phase of the evidence.

2313. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are you aware that the population of Achill has increased?—Yes.

2314. Do you think that if there was grazing land in Achill the people would be left there?—Well, it would depend very much on those who had control. You wanted the annuity of John Winters' holding, Mr. Sutherland. The annuity is £17 9s. 8d.

2315. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But he find a house there ready built for him?—Yes; we built the house for him. We have to erect houses in the case of migrants. I just want to point out to the Commission the objection that persons have to migrating. I stated that I believed that after some time that disinclination will disappear. There was a striking instance of this in the case of the Port Royal Estate, on which a townland called Derrassa, situated on the side of the Partry Mountains, was occupied by eighteen tenants who held their land in 142 detached parts.

2316. Mr. BRUCE.—What county is that?—Mayo, on the shores of Lough Mask. Eighteen tenants hold their lands in 142 detached parts of rents amounting to £25 10s. As it was not possible to strip or rearrange this townland without getting some of the tenants out of it, I called them together and stated that I would give the preference of three of the new holdings I had laid out on the Port Royal demesne, about four miles away, to any three of them who would migrate. These holdings were lockpated, and I told the tenants the rent and purchase price they would be charged, and informed them that dwellings and out-offices would be erected on each holding similar to the house just then completed on one of the holdings. I gave them a week to consider the proposal, but could not get one of them to leave.

2317. Mr. O'NEILL.—Did any of them leave afterwards, Mr. Doran?—Yes. I then approached the tenants on the next worst townland on the estate, the townland of Seah, on which there were nineteen tenants with their holdings in 127 detached parts, and rental £74 10s. After considering the matter for some days, two informed me that they would risk the change, as they could not be worse off than they were, and had very little to lose. I next went to Clonoe townland, on which there were nineteen tenants with their land

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held in 103 detached parts, and rental £49 9s., but only one of the tenants would volunteer to migrate, and he stated he would not think of doing so only he believed his house was haunted, and as he had been very unwell of late, he would risk the change. He was a young man, about thirty-five years of age. He believed in devils. He had three or four young children and a delicate wife. Neither of the two latter townlands was more than three miles from the demesne lands. I next proceeded to interview the tenants in the townland of Kilkerrin.

3032. The CHAIRMAN.—In a paragraph further up you stated that you wanted to migrate three of them?—Yes, from Derrassa. It is the worst townland in the estate; all the tenants held their land in rundale, like a Chinese puzzle, and we could not attempt the stripping of it at all unless we got a little elbow-room by taking a few of the tenants out. I next proceeded to interview the tenants in the townland of Kilkerrin, in which thirteen tenants, at rents amounting to £154 10s., held their lands in ninety-two detached parts. After some persuasion two of these tenants volunteered to migrate to the demesne lands, which happened to adjoin portion of their holdings. All this appeared very discouraging, but I had to list these persons as migrants for nine holdings on the demesne.

3033. What do you mean by "list"?—Because we could not get anyone to go except these people, who, from the reasons they gave, were obviously not the most desirable people to move into the new holdings if it could be avoided. The first three were paupers, living in houses of the most wretched character, not fit for human beings to live in. We gave them very nice homes on No. 3 plan (explains on diagram).

3034. Sir ARTHUR MACDONAGH.—Have these men prospered in their new holdings?—They have paid their way up to the present, anyway. I removed the following:—

Tenant	Rent of old Holding.	New Holding.		
		Rent.	Annuity at 4%.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Michael Phelan, ..	6 5 0	20 10 7	7 2 30	
Michael McGee, ..	6 5 0	21 10 0	7 10 4	
Catherine Prodergall, ..	1 10 0	21 6 0	7 7 2	
John Walsh, ..	3 0 0	21 0 0	7 0 0	
Michael O'Leary, ..	3 10 0	20 10 0	7 0 0	
Thomas Stanton, ..	2 0 0	15 0 0	5 0 0	
Pat Walsh, ..	2 0 0	15 0 0	5 0 0	
Michael Lally, ..	3 15 0	15 0 0	5 0 0	

Of these there were only two men that I would have considered suitable to give holdings to under ordinary circumstances, but the fact was, if we did not move some of the people from the townlands named, it would have been impossible to strip them, and as those mentioned were the only persons willing to go, I simply had to take them. Subsequently a second man from Clonoe agreed to go.

3035. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But the two men you would have chosen of all these, were they Phelan and Higgins?—Higgins is a good man.

3036. Mr. KATZNER.—They all want to holdings of increased rent?—Yes. They all want to holdings of increased rent and much better holdings. They all have good land and nice houses.

3037. They all want except one?—Within a year these men were settled in their new holdings, and the stripping proceeded in the townlands they left. They have all succeeded beyond their expectations, and have paid their annuities with punctuality. I won't say they are very well off, but they are comfortable.

3038. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you say all the operations were conducted within one year?

3039. The CHAIRMAN.—What was the date of that?—It must have been about 1899.

3040. They have been several years in their new holdings?—Yes.

3041. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Have they met all their obligations to you?—Yes, to everybody as far as I know.

3042. Mr. BARNES.—You don't say what was the effect of that upon the old people who were left?—I was coming to that. These men were put into the new holdings, and they have succeeded. The men who

refused to go from the first townland, and who preferred to be left where they were, remained, and as could not strip the townland. It was on the side of a rocky mountain, the only bits of cultivable land being interspersed with rock, and each man had his holding in several scattered patches. About two years after the migrants were settled down and had the reputation of doing well, three of the tenants from the townland of Derrassa, to whom I had at first offered new holdings in the demesne, and who would not go, begged of me to give them holdings twelve miles away near the town of Castlebar on land that had been acquired in the interval, and informed me at the same time what a great mistake they found they had made in not taking the holdings I had offered them in Port Royal near their old homes, and which were, in their opinion, better than the ones they could then get near the town of Castlebar. As nothing had been done with Derrassa in the meantime, at being impossible to strip it unless some tenants moved, I informed these people that I would provide them with new holdings near Castlebar, and after some time two of them moved there and are doing very well in their new homes. They are now about four years there. They have got on well, and become men of substantial means. John Lally was one of the men. The rent of his old holding was £5. He has now a holding of £24 1s. The annuity on it is £17 1s. 11d. The estimated fair rent was £24 1s. His neighbour, Michael Stanton, left a holding, the old rent of which was £4 5s. The estimated fair rent of his present holding is £27 1s., and the annuity is £18 18s. 7d. I ought to say the rents of the first holdings they got were about £5 less, but they were doing as well, and, as we had some lands on hands last year near their holdings, they begged to have a further increase, and we thought it wise to encourage them. I got authority from the Board to give them an additional parcel, so the rents of their present holdings is at the figures I have given you. Instead of living a wretched life on the side of a mountain, in a miserable house, they have quite nice bachelors on the road near the town of Castlebar, and are substantial farmers. I am quite satisfied they are going to pay their way.

3043. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Did the Castlebar people object to this movement?—No.

3044. Why?—It did not occur to them then. The Act of 1903 first conveyed the suggestion. Until that Act was passed it was not contemplated that the Government would provide holdings for young men to counteract emigration.

3045. Mr. KATZNER.—Do you find that they have any difficulty the first year in paying the annuities?—I have no doubt many of them had considerable difficulty, but we never think it wise to inquire or pretend that we care how they succeed when we put them in. We have to make them feel that they must sink or swim by themselves.

3046. Have you to give them any time?—No. They never asked for it. They know they would not get it; that may be the margin.

3047. The CHAIRMAN.—When they were on the shores of Lough Mask, I suppose they were then cultivating a potato patch, a little patch of oats, and that sort of thing?—Rooting away among the rocks.

3048. What do they grow now?—The same crops, only a larger area—potatoes, oats, some turnips, mangolds. They can plough the land they have now. Each of them has a horse.

3049. Does the plough belong to them?—Yes. The Board offer to advance to all migrants sums not exceeding £50, giving five years to repay the money, or longer if they find it necessary. Very few of them have availed themselves of this offer. They seem to prefer to struggle along, letting portion of the new holdings at as high a rent as they can get, and in that way gradually getting a little capital of their own.

3050. Sir ARTHUR MACDONAGH.—Letting it to whom?—To the highest bidder they can get.

3051. Most Hon. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—It is that they have a warehouse dread of getting into debt?—Yes.

3052. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is it on the eleven months' letting?—Yes. Suppose one of these men got twenty-four acres of land. He found he had not stock enough for the grazing portion; he securely fenced one field that contains five acres or so, and puts up a notice in the neighbourhood offering to let the grass of this to the highest bidder. He might get for that five acres half the rent of the entire holding.

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3030. Does he do that under lease?—No, for a short time, for six months or for the crop. He would only let it temporarily. He would prefer doing that rather than borrow capital from the Board at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., taking the risk of paying it back from the profits of the stock. They are sometimes wise in that, because stock fluctuates a great deal, and if a man borrows the money he does not every year get out of the difference between the buying and selling price of the stock as much profit as out of a temporary loan.

3031. Sir JOHN CORCORAN.—But in a case where a man lets portion of his farm which brings in more than half his annuity is not that the best possible proof that he holds his land very cheaply and really below its value in the market?—Not necessarily, for the reason that he would get what would be called an accommodation rent for it. For instance, a butcher might say, "I will give you £3 an acre for that field, which might possibly be four times its agricultural value, and yet it pays the butcher, because otherwise he might have to pay sixpence per head per day for animals awaiting slaughter; or say a merchant in a town has got to feed a number of shop assistants, he finds it cheaper to pay, say, £4 an acre as an accommodation rent for land where he could put cows or grass for milk for his household, and the milk would cost him less than the market price. The price which a portion of a holding will realise on a temporary letting cannot be accepted as a comparison for the fair rent of the holding. In other words, if a man lets five average acres of his holding at £2 an acre it does not follow that the whole of his holding is worth that acreable rent or that he could get it.

3032. To make it perfectly plain, if this circumstance enables people to pay their whole rent, is not that a great help in comparing the question of the value of land?—It is.

3033. The CHAIRMAN.—Is there any case you know of in which a migrant has failed?—No migration has been carried out except what the Board have done, and none of the Board's migrants have failed. Several of them are very poor yet, and are making quite a heroic struggle to hold their ground, and I hope and believe they will.

3034. Is there any case in which the Board moved a man where the man's condition is worse than it used to be?—No.

3034a. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—There is one case of a woman who refused to remain on a good holding, and went back to a bad one!—She got very sad and wished to go back, and we let her have her way. Women are sometimes privileged to change their minds.

3035. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you find in those localities which you mentioned to-day where you want to induce people to migrate that you are helped by local influence. If there are any people of influence in the locality do those people help you in inducing these men to migrate?—When the people of the locality satisfy themselves that the work is on sound lines, the Board get great help in that way from the public. For instance, if the result of our operations were that the average person in the district considered we were going on sound lines and were not doing the work properly, I believe we should not be able to make much progress. On the other hand, if the feeling in the district is, that the Board are doing sound work, you get very substantial aid in the settlement of details as a result of that opinion. The prevailing opinion is that the Board's land work is on sound lines and ought to be supported, and the general criticism is favourable, and that, no doubt, helps the Board. We don't please everybody.

3036. Do you think it possible the influence towards migration in some of these districts would become stronger than it is now, and that greater influence would be brought to bear on these people to migrate?—I think they want education, capital, and time, and good holdings at a fair price.

3037. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have you ever in the districts where you thought the people disinclined to move tried the experiment of offering new holdings to young people. Suppose there is an unoccupied holding with the old people, and say, three or four children grown up who are about to emigrate, or thinking of emigrating, the holding cannot support the whole family, and the young people must, therefore, emigrate; you offer the whole family a new holding, but the old people will not move; have you ever tried

the experiment of offering that to the young men?—No. When arranging for migration the Board never deal with anyone except the occupier of a holding who is prepared to surrender that holding for the purpose of enlarging adjacent holdings, and, therefore, in the case you put, if the old people were the occupiers or tenants of the holding, it is only with them the Board would deal.

3038. Do you see any objection to the course suggested, in the first place to induce the young people not to emigrate, and in the second place eventually to induce the old people, perhaps, to move after their children into the new holding?—Unless that arrangement were effected at the time they would not migrate afterwards. The old people would be quite glad to be left when they were, if one of their family got a new holding elsewhere.

3039. Do you think they would not move afterwards to the young people?—If they would not move when the young people were going they would not go afterwards.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—I differ from you. I think they would.

3040. The CHAIRMAN.—A great many of these people are very poor. I have no doubt a great many of them are in debt to the shopkeepers, so not that so?—Yes. Most small landholders keep a running account with a shopkeeper, because they have no cash, and the shopkeeper does not expect payment except at periods of the year when he knows that the farmer is in funds.

3041. Do you think that the reluctance of many of these people to move is in any way connected with their being in debt to the shopkeeper?—I don't think so.

3042. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Assume these people are in debt to the local shopkeeper—would not that induce the shopkeeper to exercise some influence to keep him on the spot?—I think not, because the shopkeeper would be more likely to get paid if the man were going to a better holding. It would be very bad policy on his part to pursue that man and come down on him straight away for his debt. A shopkeeper is not quite exempt from local odium if he does an unreasonable thing.

3043. Does the debt to the shopkeeper deter people from emigrating?—No.

3044. Would the shopkeeper who was owed money by a young man anxious to go try to prevent him from going to America because he thought he would lose his debt?—He would try to prevent the man who owed him money, but I know many cases where the head of a family owed a debt to the shopkeeper, and the shopkeeper would lend him part of the passage money to help to send his daughter to America in the hope of getting the debt paid from her earnings. That is quite common. They help members of the doctor's family to emigrate in the hope of getting more money, but they would not help the man who owed them money to emigrate.

3045. The fact of owing money to the shopkeepers deters emigration?—No.

3036. I am talking of the head of the family?—The head of a family would rarely emigrate. The shopkeeper would help the head of the family to send out his daughters to America, in the hope of their being able to send money home.

3047. Sir JOHN CORCORAN.—Is it not a fact that when the Government in 1882 and 1883 gave £150,000 for emigration purposes and allowed the merchants to borrow money to supplement that amount, a great number of whole families went?—Yes.

3048 And does not the history of that movement justify you in saying that the shopkeepers would try to prevent heads of families emigrating, even though that did not occur in the course of your actual operations?—I do not think the cases are exactly parallel. Lord Dufferin took the case of a man who owed money to a shopkeeper and thought of emigrating. Before he emigrated he would have to realise and sell out his farm. The shopkeepers would do everything they could to get their debts paid before he got out of the country. They would not help him to go. But if the Government, as they did before, were giving a free passage for whole families out to America—

3049. They were doing more than that?—Before the tenants sold out their interests in the holdings, the shopkeeper would get in with his writ or other legal device as quickly as he could. If not, he would have

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to look on the account as a bad debt; or appeal to the honesty of the people to remit him the money which they owed, if they succeeded in America. I know myself of several cases of wretchedly poor people owing debts to the shopkeepers who went to America and sent back to the shopkeeper every shilling they owed.

3050. After all, when you talk about individuals migrating and emigrating, is not what the shopkeeper has to consider not the men so much as the security for his money in the holding?—Yes.

3051. The holding, which is his security, cannot migrate or emigrate?—The shopkeeper, as a rule, has no lien on the holding. He cannot have such a lien unless the tenant effects a mortgage on it, or unless the shopkeeper gets a decree. As a rule, the shopkeeper lends to the honesty of the people; and in the absence of a mortgage or decree he has no lien on the holding.

3052. But that is the ultimate security?—Yes. If it were not for the fact that the great bulk of these poor people, no matter how poor they are, really struggle to pay their way, they would get no credit. I do not think there are more honest people in the world having regard to their resources.

3053. Is it not also true that if the shopkeeper did not believe that from some source or other these people would pay their way, he would not give them credit?—If he did not know it from experience he would not give credit.

3054. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You charged certain migrants fines?—Yes, in some cases.

3055. Don't you know that in many of these cases these fines were advanced by shopkeepers?—I know they were.

3056. Does the practice still prevail?—The Board under the Act of 1903 have ceased to charge fines except to lands or persons who have no holdings to surrender. They only charged fines in comparatively few cases, and that was before the passing of the Act of 1903.

Mr. O'KEEFE.—I would like to be quite certain that in the case of migrants ending into new holdings they would not be handicapped by being under large debts to shopkeepers in the towns?

3057. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—With reference to the questions that you have been asked about shopkeepers losing their accounts through emigration, if the shopkeepers go to the wall through the Government promoting emigration, is not that one reason why the Government should do nothing of the kind?—I never took any special interest in the shopkeeper; I think he is able to look after himself. I would not give that as a reason, but I think it is altogether a wrong policy to emigrate the people by State aid from a country where there is too little of a population. Even in some of those poor parts of the country where there is a dense population there is more wealth obtained from the poor soil than from some of the richest agricultural districts of Ireland. Take my own railway station, Ballyhanna; the country for six or eight miles round that as a centre is very poor and densely populated, all cut up into small holdings. But each of these small holders has his acre of oats, his acre of potatoes and meadow. His wife and family feed a couple of "sets" of pigs (four pigs) in the year. The wife has from thirty to sixty hens, and the sale of the eggs enables her to supply groceries for the family. Taking all these things into account—the value of the crops, poor though the soil is, and the supplemental earnings from the pigs and fowl, through the efforts of the family—I believe I am accurate in saying that for, say, twenty square miles, with Ballyhanna as a centre, the value got from that soil is double what is got from the same area with, say, Kells as a centre.

3058. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Kells in the County Meath?—Yes.

3059. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—While there is so much of the resources of Ireland undeveloped at home, there is no justification in permitting congestion by any scheme of emigration?—That is my opinion. You cannot have a prosperous country without a population. Here there is at hand the material for that population to apply their labour, with advantage to themselves and the general prosperity of the country.

3060. Does it seem to you that the population is, if anything, too small for the active development of Irish resources?—The population is badly distributed. You have too many people on these poor areas. But if

these areas are to be made fully productive, the poor population you have the better provided each family is, self-supporting, according to a low standard of living. Even these people on the bogs are better off than many artisans in the cities and towns, and pass their lives under more desirable conditions, morally and physically.

3061. If that is so, it is a strong point in favour of your contention that migration should be actively promoted?—Certainly, and that there ought to be a national feeling in favour of it instead of a prejudice against it.

3062. You state that you hope there will be a national feeling in favour of promoting migration, instead of it being retarded by local jealousy. Do you look to any special means for the creation of that national feeling?—I would say fuller consideration of the subject, from a national point of view, by those who influence public opinion.

3063. For the improvement of that judgment, or to stimulate all to facilitate the process, don't you think the national feeling in favour of migration must be backed by some national authority?—I fear, my Lord, you may be leading me beyond my depth, but I think it would be most desirable if an acceptable national authority could be constituted.

3064. The CHAIRMAN.—Your experience among these people leads you to believe that the only thing that is lacking is opportunity; that they are quite able—given the proper conditions—to farm the land anywhere well enough to support themselves?—Well, many persons hold the opinion that migrants from small, poor, or bog holdings in farms of good land won't succeed; but practically all those we have dealt with are of this class. I believe they will all succeed. Their greatest difficulty is want of sufficient capital.

3065. That is not your experience?—No.

3066. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I thought you had already explained that education was absolutely essential in order that the lower class of migrants should be able to cultivate the larger holdings?—I feel that most strongly.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is that quite consistent with your saying that they are fit to be removed now to cultivate the better holdings?

3067. The CHAIRMAN.—I think what Mr. Doran has told us is that if you put these people on congested holdings, even then agricultural education is necessary to enable them to get the most out of the land?—Yes, my Lord, with my knowledge of them I am much surprised that all of them have been able to hold their ground. If they were educated to farm their land properly, and get reasonable aid to develop their resources under the new conditions, instead of being obliged, without advice or assistance, to make a struggle from the very beginning, a better class of migrants would be forthcoming, and migration would be on a sounder basis. The poorly-equipped migrants that we had to put on these new holdings, simply because we could not get any others, have held their ground without any support from the Board. We have not looked after them in any way but they might think they were going to be what is called "washed." If they held up their heads like men, and are making a brave struggle to fix themselves on the soil, freed from landlord traditions, and hoping they will be real owners of their farms. These people require education and capital, in any way they can get it, on sound lines. And they want to be organised, because as individual or group of individuals, in these remote districts can do nothing without organisation to improve the marketing of their produce. In fact they can do very little individually to make things better than they are. But if the districts were thoroughly organised on Sir Horace Plunkett's lines, and if all co-operated in promoting a system of marketing their produce, and in purchasing their manure and seeds and all that, there would be a great improvement effected in a few years. But this will never be done unless it is taken up thoroughly. It will not be done by itinerant instructors, but by instructors who remain in the district and show the people how to do things properly; take the spade, figuratively speaking, out of their hands, and show them they are able to do the work better. Then they will follow their advice, but not till then. I think it shows their common sense.

3068. Sir JOHN CORMACK.—Assuming that arrangements were made for giving instruction of that nature, is it the case, in your experience, that a man who moves from conditions and surroundings that have

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come down from ages past, who moves to a new holding under new conditions, is much more likely to act on suggestions and avail himself of that help when on the new holding, than he would be if left on his old holding?—That is quite true, and the more fact of his moving shows that he has some enterprise.

3026. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—We have hitherto restricted our consideration of migration to the lands which you say are available in Connacht. Allow me to ask whether before the policy of migration could be effectively carried out it would be desirable to look outside Connacht altogether, and provide lands elsewhere for the purpose of migration?—It will be necessary to look outside Connacht. But in all the remarks I made I considered it my business to confine myself to the scheduled districts and the Board's wish.

3027. Quite so. This is an extension of the inquiry. You personally have to deal with congestion in Connacht. But in other parts of Ireland there may be other congested areas not scheduled hitherto?—That is so.

3028. Have you any return of the extent of those areas and the localities where they are found?—In the West there are areas outside the scheduled districts which are quite as poor as the average area within the scheduled districts. But in many cases the remedy is at hand, and they are very much easier to put right.

3029. What would be the remedy at hand?—They are more isolated, and we never find the people in small isolated districts so poor as those in large areas of poverty, because they are nearer employment and are in more prosperous surroundings.

3030. They are near enriching areas?—Yes; that is a good way to put it. They are near employment. A man in Connacht has to go to England or Scotland for employment.

3031. Including such holdings in the Province of Connacht and the other congested administrative counties, in the rest of Ireland, are these congested areas in such close proximity to those enriching areas that in regard to the relief of congestion you might upon them?—Oh, no; you are called upon to make some practical suggestions to deal with the poor congested districts in Ireland. If this is not done now in a large way we will be all barred before any improvement comes.

3032. Excluding the eight administrative counties have you any idea in what other of the twenty-four counties of Ireland these congested spots occur?—They are in a great many counties. That is not a satisfactory answer, but it is the best I can give at present.

3033. Have you any means of ascertaining where these further congested areas are situated?—I think the available statistics would enable you to locate them generally.

3034. Are they given in this return* (indicates where)?—I am not acquainted with that return.

3035. The CHAIRMAN.—That return has been specially prepared for the Commission. It shows the total rateable valuation, the population, and the average valuation per head of population in certain electoral divisions. These divisions are:—first, all the areas scheduled as congested;—these are the only ones you have dealt with?—Yes.

3036. Secondly, all other electoral divisions where the average is less than 30s.; these were not scheduled because they were so scattered that in no case did 20 per cent. of the inhabitants of a county live in them; is not that so?—Yes.

3037. Thirdly, all electoral divisions where the average valuation is between 30s. and 50s., but is brought below 30s. by the deduction from the dividend (i.e., the total rateable valuation of the electoral division) of all ratings of above £50. Do you follow?—Yes.

3038. These are kept over the 30s. limit by the presence of one or two large holdings?—Even by that you might have poor districts excluded; averages are rarely safe to take, especially in respect to large areas. Let me illustrate it in this way. You will have an electoral division with a large demesne on it, or perhaps three or four great farms. Say the valuation of that area is £200, and that upon it there are only a dozen families. On the remainder of that

electoral division you have only a valuation of £200, and you have 500 people on it. The average valuation is comparatively high, yet, if you separate the two it is extremely low in the densely populated part. I think that in locating congestion in any given area all holdings above £10 ought to be ascertained and compared with the agricultural holdings under £10 valuation.

3039. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That, I think, is what his lordship has suggested?—And in that way you would get the true measure of congestion in a given area.

3040. How are we to arrive at it all over the country?—Quite easy. All we want is the staff to investigate and prepare the statistics.

3041. The CHAIRMAN.—If we had that, Mr. Doran, you would contemplate taking out the statistics for all these townlands all over the country where poverty may exist?—The townlands can be dealt with in that way. If you exclude all £10 holdings, of course, you would have to take a lower head rate than this 30s.

3042. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That is what I want to come at. In the case of Mayo, you have given us the congested areas or other tracts which require to be relieved by the addition of grass lands. You have also shown where these grass lands are to be found?—Some of them.

3043. I want to know whether, outside the eight counties, we can get a return showing where these congested areas actually exist, and also showing the unutilized lands available in the neighbourhood for the relief of such congestion?—You can, but the preparation of such a return would take some time and be expensive.

3044. Would you be able to have such a return for the Commission when they meet again?—No. The only returns of unutilized areas that I attach any importance to, or rather that I ask you to consider reliable, are those I have prepared for Mayo and Roscommon.

3045. The CHAIRMAN.—You could not give us maps like that for all Ireland?—Yes, but it would be necessary to employ a special staff for the purpose.

Mr. O'KELLY.—How long would it take?—I would not like to give a guess, but I do not see how you can have reliable information without it. In my maps of Mayo and Roscommon I endeavoured to put before you a sample case, and I intended to suggest that before you could make up your own minds how much of that land should be scheduled for compulsory acquisition you must give all persons interested every opportunity of a hearing, and of stating their objections before some tribunal as to whether it ought, or ought not, to be taken.

3046. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I want you to explain that. Hitherto our discussion has been with regard to the relief of congestion in the areas in which the Board is operating. But we have a further point to consider, namely, the relief of congestion in tracts which have not hitherto been scheduled; we want to find out where these tracts are, what their circumstances are, and what means are available for the relief of congestion there. You say you will be able to supply us with that?—I will be able to give it, but it will require a staff. However, I will give any assistance I can. I have not investigated these matters outside the counties containing congested districts, but I know how to go about it, and I will make suggestions if you like to the Commissioners in writing, showing how it can be done.

3047. Meet Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Important as such a return may be, don't you still consider that the Connacht land problem is a distinct one of its own, one standing out by itself, demanding for solution beyond and above all the other districts?—Yes. Its striking and special feature being that you have quite adjacent to a densely populated area an unutilized area of indifferent grass land; that the people who occupy it make very little out of it; and it yields to the country little national wealth. It is lying there in a state of paucity undeveloped.

3048. Is it not correct to point out that in districts that need to be scheduled in other parts of Ireland there are large tracts of grass land that are in a paucity condition?—Yes, my lord, that is so.

* See pp. 254-57.

† Note by Secretary.—If the test of congestion be taken as average valuation per head, the special return prepared for the Commission, and alluded to in Questions 3028-33, indicates at any rate the worst unscheduled congested electoral divisions. If the test be taken as the proportion of holdings above and below £50 valuation, in any area, the only returns that would afford a guide are manuscript returns in the General Register Office (see pp. 251-2), and these will be published for the information of the Commission.

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3092. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Following up a question of some importance already raised, may I ask you do you think that you really have a fair basis of measurement for the question submitted to this Commission by taking as the unit of measure the electoral division instead of the townland?—Not without a scrutiny as to how the units of the electoral division are made up. For instance, if you have, as I said, an electoral division containing a large domestic or two or three grass farms, you must examine the make of the electoral division, and summarise them.

3093. In respect of what Sir Antony MacDonnell said as to the importance of getting information, if the information is got at all, you will agree with me it should be as full as possible?—Yes, and as accurate.

3094. And as accurate. Now, I ask you this, that if you were given the staff, could you give the returns wanted from the whole of Ireland, excluded from the scheduled districts—do you follow me?—Yes.

3095. It is a very big area, is not it?—Yes.

3096. And after all is said and done, the conditions of non-scheduled Ireland are so different from scheduled Ireland, do you not think it ought to be done by townlands and not by electoral divisions?—The suggestion I first made would necessitate taking it up in townlands, because you could not summarise the units in each electoral division without examining the townlands, because the townlands are the units.

3097. If you get a return giving that sort of information based upon townlands, would you then be in possession of two branches of information dealing with the same thing, the unscheduled Ireland and the scheduled Ireland; but would not you be in this difficulty, that whereas the unit of measurement in non-scheduled Ireland would be the townlands, the unit of measure under the Act in the congested areas would be the electoral divisions?—I could give it to you in the same way for both.

3098. You could make it uniform?—Yes.

3099. It would be possible then. You see the point?—Yes, I think I do.

3100. The CHAIRMAN.—We can decide what is the best way in which we can get the information we require when we re-assemble in October. You can give us the revised figures for the tables you submitted, and you might, perhaps, suggest how further information should be collected?—I will do that with pleasure.

We can then discuss them without in any way picking ourselves up any particular course.

3101. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Of course you will bring out in regard to any particular area in the non-congested districts the proximity of anything like a large area for enlargement which would influence the scheduling an area?—Yes.

3102. The CHAIRMAN.—Have you anything else to say about migration?—I give individual cases in support of my view that if suitable lands can be obtained, landholders from the congested districts will be gradually got to migrate to them, and the objection to leave their present homes will disappear if those who migrate succeed in their new homes. With few exceptions, the migrants whom the Board have settled in their new holdings were very poor, and at least three-fourths of them would not have been selected if there had been a choice of applicants, amongst whom would be men of capital energy and strong help. Notwithstanding all these difficulties, the 899 migrants, with few exceptions, appear to be getting on well, and not one of them has failed to pay the annuity up to the present. One of the migrants to the lands near Castletown came from Clare Island, and several of the other distances from twelve to sixteen miles. They are settled there three five or six years and are doing well. When they came there they were welcomed by their neighbours, or, at any rate, no hostility was shown to them, but since the passing of the Act of 1903, which provides that the grass areas acquired by the Estates Commissioners can be utilised for migration, or enlargement of holdings irrespective of whether they are in a congested or non-congested district, and that holdings can also be provided thereon for the sons of tenants, the feeling has become strong in the neighbourhood of these grass areas that no "strangers" should be permitted to occupy them, or that before holdings be offered to persons from a distance the requirements of all the neighboring landholders and their sons should be supplied. There are few, if any,

grass areas in Mayo which could not be taken up by persons from the parish in which they are situated, if after enlarging small holdings the balance be given to the sons of tenants and persons who have no land. If the available lands are to be given to sons of tenants and other landless persons within the congested districts counties, migrants from the congested areas will have little or no land to get unless they move to counties more inland, which is very impossible.

3103. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—What you say seems to show that it will be very difficult to remove congestion until the existing prejudices are somewhat reduced?—What was in my mind was that if you plant the sons of tenants on a bit near a congested district, there will be still more difficulty in getting the people from a scheduled district to go across the new plantation into a more inland district. While it appears very desirable to place on land which needs cultivation, young men who are willing to work it and thus give them an opportunity of settling in their own country instead of emigrating, I am of opinion that the heads of families who are already settled on holdings too small to enable them to derive a decent living therefrom, have a prior claim, so young men who have no families dependent upon them, and consequently the young men should go further afield if they are to be settled. The mere stripping or redistribution of tenanted land, where the rearranged holdings are still uneconomic, is not of itself a satisfactory result; and in order to substantially improve the condition of each landholder, their holdings should be enlarged. This cannot be done, as a rule, owing to the absence of adjacent un-tenanted land unless some of the tenants be migrated.

3105. Mr. BAYNE.—I understand that what you say would apply to the Dillon estate. You are not satisfied with the present condition of the Dillon estate. You would like to have more unoccupied land in the neighbourhood to migrate a considerable number from the Dillon estate?—Yes, to do so gradually.

3106. The CHAIRMAN.—That is the case now?—Yes.

3107. Mr. BAYNE.—You don't regard the settlement on the Dillon estate as a final one?—The Board did all that it could with the material it had. The Board gave them all the land it had. But a very large portion of the holdings are still uneconomic. Many of the holdings now uneconomic will be rendered economic under a better system of husbandry, if my suggestions are carried out.

3108. If you obtained sufficient grass lands, how would you remedy the existing state of things on the Dillon estate. By redistribution?—There would be very little redistribution. We would merely migrate a number of tenants and add the land vacated by them to the adjacent holdings.

3109. Would this be the proper moment to ask what proportion of the holdings on the Dillon estate are economic, and what proportion would remain to have further measures taken so as to give them economic holdings?—I should say that at least half the holdings on the Dillon estate are uneconomic.

3110. About 2,000?—Yes.

3111. By the means of fencing, reclamation, drainage, and other schemes you speak of, and without any further migration, can you say how many more of these 2,000 you expect would, suppose in ten years, become economic?—I believe it would be possible to reduce that number by one-half within ten years.

3112. To 1,000 uneconomic holdings?—Yes, by careful development and making more of the land.

3113. We can look forward to only 1,000 in ten years?—I should say that in my opinion many of these would still be a very low standard of economic holding.

3114. And without any further migration?—Yes.

3115. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—In how many years would that be reached?—I suggested ten years.

3116. Mr. BAYNE.—Suppose you had the opportunity of migration to suitable lands, that the land was available, you think you could get rid of these 1,000?—Oh, yes, it could be done by migration, certainly. The Dillon tenants are people who will migrate when they are offered better holdings, if the difficulties mentioned are overcome.

3117. Are there already signs of improvement, as the result of the means already taken to educate them,

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are the lands better cultivated than they were before, is there more manure cultivated on it—in the bad places you never see a field of turnips or of mangel wassel, while on the Dillon Estate you do see that they provide for the winter feeding of cattle by having those root crops.

3117A. Do you find since the estate has been rearranged more of these root crops being grown, and so on?—There is little more in the way of crops—cabbages, potatoes, and so on, as before. The change is mainly in connection with the improvement of the land. They have done a good deal in the way of reclamation, drainage, top-dressing, and better treatment by the application of labour. It is no exaggeration to say that the whole face of the country on the Dillon estate has been altered, by means of the drainage schemes, the better cultivation of the land, and the improvement of the houses of the people, which has been nearly all done by themselves.

3118. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Having on the Dillon estate the 1,000 holdings, which would still remain uneconomical, do you look forward to making some of them economic by migration?—Yes; some of the 1,000 could be made economic in that way, by adding the land vacated by migrants to the holdings of those that remained.

3119. At all events, the congestion among these 1,000 would be relieved by migration?—Yes.

3120. Is there any other way by which their economic condition may be immediately improved? Suppose a few could be given grass lands. Or grass lands could be given among some of these 1,000 at a distance, as tenants with a joint interest, and thus enable them to feed live stock to supplement what they had on their small holdings?—Yes; I am going into that.

3121. The CHAIRMAN.—I should like to point out that the memorandum we are dealing with consists of 30 pages. We have got through five in the space of nearly three days, and as we rise to-morrow I think we had better not go into that. I am afraid we shall not get through it!—Perhaps I had better read the memorandum, and you can then examine me on it.

3122. The CHAIRMAN.—I think we have gone into many of the points already?—I will read some of the important points, and I think we shall get through it this evening. The migration of tenants of the class found on the poorest estates, under conditions likely to prove successful, is a most difficult problem; and is, in fact, impracticable to carry out on a large scale in a short time. I want to emphasise the word "short." Tenants on small holdings at rents of 22 to 24, as they usually run to, are not at all disposed to take £25 or £30 worth of land. Not 5 per cent. would be in a position or be willing to build a new house, and fence such a holding at a distance of ten or twelve miles from their houses. It must be borne in mind that while the works of fencing and building on the new holding are proceeding the tenant has at intervals to attend to the cropping of his land. The only experience in migration which the country has had is that which the Board carried out, and up to the present it has not been possible to get a landholder to leave his present holding, and migrate to a new one at a distance with the condition that he was to fence it himself, and erect the necessary buildings. In this connection, however, it must not be forgotten that the Board's selection of migrants is confined to the poorest landholders in Ireland. If the Board's function were to place on these grass lands some of solvent tenants from any part of the country, and, say, returned emigrants, these persons would gladly take holdings of grass land at cost price, and fence and put up buildings themselves. In other words, there would be no difficulty in planting the grass lands with people, but the great difficulty of the Board is in dealing with poorer landholders and providing for them. The experience of the Board's operations in connection with migration is, I think, sufficient to prove that the poor class of tenants they are dealing with cannot be radically improved in a year or two, by migration, striping, and the execution of the necessary improvement works, such as drainage, fencing, and building. Even if the Board had available near a large congested estate a sufficient area of grass land to transfer as many tenants from the congested lands as would provide economic holdings for those remaining, it

would not be possible to get a sufficient number of them to migrate in the course of a few years. Such a change can only be effected gradually, and in this connection I now repeat a suggestion made some time ago that the Board should be placed in a position to acquire all suitable grass land within ten or twelve miles of the congested areas, and give the small landholders immediate access to them for the grazing of their young stock, and have a scheme in operation under which landholders from the congested areas, would have the option, year after year, to migrate to holdings on the grass areas on reasonable terms, and the land vacated by them added to the adjacent small holdings. This scheme would permit the people to gradually migrate to the grass lands, and if they failed to do this, they would have those grass lands practically as an appendage to their holdings, which would enable them to keep a considerable number of stock during the summer. Many of them would arrange not to keep any stock during the summer on their home farms, except milch cows and young calves, and reserve all the hay and other fodder for consumption during winter. They would thus be able to keep increased stock on the home farm during winter, and have more manure to crop and improve it. If migrants do not in the course of some years take up these grass lands they could be sold in large parcels to the landholders of groups of townlands (or their trustees) who would use them as co-grazing, or manage them on a co-operative basis. This scheme would work satisfactorily in parts of Mayo and Roscommon, for Dillon, De Freyne, and other estates. Take, for example, the Dillon estate, with its 4,500 tenants and a poor law valuation of £20,000 a year. The Board's operations are practically closed on this estate, and a great deal of improvement effected. Yet 3,260 holdings (about three-fourths of the estate) are under 25 poor law valuation. If sufficiently large areas of these grass lands were secured at a price which would enable the smaller tenants on these and neighbouring estates to have summer grazing for their stock at a fair price, it would become part of their farm management to rear as many young cattle as they possibly could on their home farms up to an age when they would be strong enough to send them to the grass farms, and sell the surplus stock every November. They would keep for the winter on the home farm all the stock that they had fodder for. The fact of this grass area being eight or ten miles from their houses would not be such a serious inconvenience as may appear at first sight. It must also be borne in mind that it has been the practice for a least twenty-five years for the small landholders of these districts to send a beast or two to a grazing farm from May to November. The tenants of the Dillon and other estates have been accustomed to do that for many years. They will be deprived of this advantage if these grass farms are largely planted with sons of tenants, or returned Americans. The young stock reared by these people on their present poor holdings are usually marketable at May, and a great improvement would result from feeding them for the summer half-year on good land. Some of these grass farms are rich grazing lands, with soil of a strong adhesive character not well adapted for tillage. Turf too cannot be provided convenient to many of them, and if the lands be cut up into holdings many of them will not have a good supply of water. On the lands in the Board's hands, there are at present grazing 4,970 cattle, and 955 sheep belonging to small farmers mostly from congested districts.

3123. The CHAIRMAN.—Just wait at that point. It is practically the end of what you have to say about grazing. If there is any member of the Commission who wants to ask a question on other points the best plan would be to read first the paragraph dealing with that particular subject?—I think we will get through the remainder much quicker. You have discussed a great deal of the following matter already incidentally.

3124. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—I should like to ask you a question or two, as short as I can put them, about the small holders, and the grazing areas to which they can send their stock. Is it the fact that the grazing land in the Board's hands is surrounded by small farms?—We have acquired the tenancy of some of the grazing farms.

3125. Seeing that you have that land in your hands, is it not a most desirable thing for the small holders, with whom you are dealing, or have dealt, that they should have these grazing farms for common purposes

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as the complement to their farming operations?—It is a decided advantage to them to get grazing for young cattle in these grass areas, especially for the summer half of the year. As I think I have explained, they send the cattle from their poor holdings to the grass farms during the summer half of the year. Even if a considerable number of these people would not migrate you could raise the present holdings to an economic standard, if as an appendage to each holding you could give the right to graze a number of stock on these grass farms at a moderate price.

3125. The tenants send their stock, not only to improve them, but because they have not got room on their holdings?—They must either sell them or find grazing.

3127. Is it fair for me to make this deduction from your experience of working a district where there are small holdings—grazing land or some sort is an economic necessity to the small holder of land?—Yes.

3128. I am not stretching it too far?—He might keep them on his own holding if it contained sufficient grazing land.

3129. For the moment what we are dealing with are these grazing lands. I want to get a general idea of how far people, small holders, all over Ireland, purchasing tenants, for example, are concerned economically in the preservation of grazing lands?—I don't think it always necessary to have grazing farms. My view is that it would be better for the tenant to have sufficient grazing land within his own boundary and make the most of it. To people with small holdings it would be a very substantial advantage to have the right of grazing year by year a specified number of young cattle on a grazing area. But, if the holdings of these people could be enlarged to an economic standard they would not have to go a distance away from their homes with their cattle.

3130. The tenant has stock, he wants grazing as much as a collier or let us say so much a head. Is it for a limited time?—They take it as a rule for six months. There are at the present time nearly 5,000 cattle belonging to small farmers, grazing on the Board's farms. At May the tenant sends them in to the grazing farm. He brings them home in November—or sells them at that time.

3131. Can you give us an idea whether it is really the best for himself to sell them instead of bringing them back to the small holding?—The great bulk of them sell them in November. The Board on the grazing farms it holds temporarily is fulfilling an economic want to the small holder.

3132. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Do these 5,000 cattle come from a congested district?—Most of them do. Since the Board came into possession of the grazing land, they are using it for the grazing of small farmer's cattle.

3133. They are mostly from a congested district?—Yes.

3134. The cattle come from a congested district into a non-congested district. Is there any such objection to the cattle as there is to the migrants?—None whatever to the cattle.

3135. What would be the effect if you striped the land and broke them up into small holdings?—The new holdings would be taken by migrants, and the old holdings enlarged, and the occupiers of the latter would be able to feed more stock on the enlarged home farm than on the present holding.

3136. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Would you injure the economic position of these tenants now sending in cattle if you broke up that grass land and striped it out into holdings, settled a portion of it, and did away with the grazing property?—I don't consider I would. It would be the best way, as more wealth would be got out of what is now grazing land if the occupiers were making the best use of the soil.

3137. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—People who now send cattle to this land would not lose the right to send cattle to it?—No, it might prevent the necessity of their migrating, or they would have the cattle on their own holdings.

3138-39.—The CHAIRMAN.—You gave many answers on those points yesterday?—Yes.

3140. The Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I would like you to take an example on this point—the people who send these cattle to graze would not have these lands for such purposes if they were striped among small holders. Would it be practicable when striping them that a preference should be given to those people who now send cattle for grazing?—No; I do not see how that could be arranged.

3141. The CHAIRMAN.—You don't want to say anything more with regard to the grazing, do you?—No, my lord, except that this is a Memorandum which Sir John Colson asked me to hand in, giving a list of the stock on Clare Island.* It comes to an approximate value of £3,383.

List of Live Stock on Clare Island on September, 1905, and approximate value of same.

	£	s	d	£
145 cows at average of	5	0	0	= 370
60 horses	9	0	0	= 540
5 foals	4	0	0	= 20
9 pigs	2	0	0	= 18
30 asses	0	15	0	= 39
2,009 sheep,	0	12	0	= 1,206
110 calves	1	5	0	= 127
72 yearling cattle	4	0	0	= 288
64 two-year-olds	6	0	0	= 264
1 three-year-old	8	0	0	= 8
				<hr/> 3,383

3144. The CHAIRMAN.—To turn to another point I want to understand what there is in the district you mark B on your map which in your opinion differentiates it from C?—Owing to remoteness from the grass areas, a sufficient number would not migrate appreciably to relieve congestion. Amongst these who would remain, but, as I have already indicated, I believe that after some time that feeling may disappear, and that some of these people would be got to go if these who did migrate from the more favoured districts—marked C, on the map—were needed, and if you could find them suitable land.

3145. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Then the distinguishing inequalities of B would disappear. They would pass into C, so to speak?—That is so.

3146. Mr. BRYCE.—Don't you think your experience of the way the people have begun to improve their houses would make you take a more favourable view of that. At first you said on the Dillon estate it was exceedingly difficult to get them to improve their houses?—Yes.

3147. Now, you are afraid they are improving them too much?—Well, I mentioned to you, when you were passing through it, that there did appear to me to be some danger that some of the people would be extravagant in their outlay on the erection and improvement of their dwellings and out-offices.

3148. I have been saying that the thing when it once took root like wildfire, would lead you to some hope that when it was forced by example to work well, it would likely go a great deal faster?—I should hope so, if the matter were dealt with in a large, generous way by the Government, if the land was secured and could be sold to the migrants at moderate prices. Improved education is also necessary, for it is ignorance more than anything else that keeps them devoid of enterprise and of the power to enable them to think or to reason that it was for them to go fifteen miles inland to a holding on which they could get a decent living.

3149. Before you pass from that, would you not rather modify, in view of what you have said, the last sentence?—Migration cannot be looked to as a practical means of relieving congestion in this area.* Would you rather say—"at present"?—Yes, at present. But there is a great deal to do, before the present conditions change sufficiently. When the new conditions prevail the country will be very much altered.

* See p. 187.

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3150. The CHAIRMAN.—I think you might now pass on to the next point. For the relief of congestion to any appreciable extent in respect of scheduled areas adjacent to grazing tracts in the counties of Connaught provision should be made for the enlargement of all small holdings immediately adjacent to those grass areas whether in scheduled districts or not before placing migrants on the land. That matter was developed yesterday. When obliged to act under the present statute, the Board cannot enlarge a small holding adjacent to a grass area unless they have a surplus over, and I suggest to the Commission that the procedure ought to be reversed and all the uneconomic holdings immediately adjacent to grass areas in congested or non-congested districts should be first brought to an economic standard before you bring strangers in to occupy the remaining area.

The CHAIRMAN.—I think you have made that all pretty clear.

3151. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—In fact that there must be enlargement before there is migration?—Yes, where necessary.

3152. I suppose nobody disputes that?—No. In fact I do not believe the clause would ever have been drafted if the framers of it quite understood its effect. The information in the returns handed in points to the necessity of reserving the lands referred to for the benefit of occupiers who are already settled upon holdings of insufficient size or value to enable them to derive a decent living therefrom—that in those tables of areas I have given. If something like this is not done—that is, satisfying local requirements before you migrate strangers—and done with the general assent of the country—I would like to emphasize that—the opportunity for relieving the congests by giving them access to more and better land may be lost for ever; that is to say, if these grass lands are given over to young people in the neighbourhood, there will be no land available in the future for relieving the congestion where it now exists.

3153. Mr. O'KELLY.—That is to say, if the Estates Commissioners purchased the land, and not the Congested Districts Board?—Yes; I am coming to that just now. We find that we cannot deal with the land in a different method from that of the Estates Commissioners, because they are doing it in a locally popular way, and the Board cannot act in that way. The two policies operating in the same district clash.

3154. Sir JOHN COLSON.—What is in your mind as determining the extent and nature of local requirements. You used the term, "local requirements being such," several times. Who is to determine them, or what is in your mind as to what may be legitimately fixed as a local requirement?—When the Board purchases an area of unencumbered land, and finds that adjacent to it there are uneconomic holdings, they should have power to enlarge those holdings before they bring people from a distance to occupy the remainder of the area. That is what I call "meeting local requirements"—dealing with people who are living on uneconomic holdings adjacent to the grass land first.

3155. But would the measure of the requirements be the local feeling of the people, or would it be some sort of standard fixed by authority?—It should be the requirements of the people settled on uneconomic holdings.

3156. The CHAIRMAN.—It would mean your £10 standard, I suppose?—Yes. That reminds me that I omitted to draw your attention to the very important matter that at present neither the Congested Districts Board nor the Estates Commissioners seem to have power to enlarge any holdings that are over 25 rateable value. I consider that too small, and I suggest that they should have power to enlarge any holdings under £10 rateable value.

3157. Do you mean to say that on an estate like the Dillon estate you have never been able to enlarge holdings over a rateable value of 25?—No; but where the Estates Commissioners or the Board purchase an area of unencumbered land, they cannot enlarge any holdings adjacent to it where such holdings are over 25 rateable value, and I suggest that that limit should be raised to £10 instead of 25.

158 Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Of course, then, you will have the less land available for the relief of congestion?—My suggestion is that anyone in occupation of a holding not exceeding £10 rateable value

may have his holding enlarged to at least a £30 standard. In considering the practicability of these proposals it should be borne in mind that in many districts the migration of "strangers" would be opposed by persons in the parishes in which the lands are situated. This opposition would be so strong in some districts that unless the present feeling changes, no migrant would be likely to take a new holding outside his own parish.

3158. Mr. O'KELLY.—Before you pass from that, I wish to ask whether you think that feeling will exist when the law is altered?—I could not say. The people are not always obedient to the law. I think you must have a higher influence acting in the direction of forcing the local people to take what I call in my memorandum a more national view of the situation. If this does not come to pass, migration is hopeless from my point of view.

3159. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Do you think any authority is likely to have sufficient influence to remove the objections of local people to the bringing of outsiders into their district to their detriment? I do. I think if men like Dr. O'Donnell, Mr. Connor O'Kelly, and other persons with public influence, adopt this view, they will get the great bulk of the people to take the matter up in that spirit, especially if further inland, more land would be found for the sons of tenants, and that they would only have to go another forty or fifty miles away. Since the passing of the Act of 1903, the management of the Board's estates—migration, strapping, and enlargement of holdings, has become more difficult in districts where the Estates Commissioners' operations come into close proximity with the Board's, for the reason that the procedure of the two Departments is different. For instance, the Estates Commissioners give surplus land, after enlarging the holdings on the estate containing it, to evicted tenants, and the sons of tenants on the estate, as they did on the Clannacree estate, which is adjacent to several estates owned by the Board. The Board's procedure is different. The Board retain the surplus land for the benefit of congested districts after enlarging any small holdings on the estate, or of tenant purchasers immediately adjacent to it.

3161. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Then, in regard to that, Mr. Donnan, you draw the contrast. Has there been any representation made to the Estates Commissioners on the part of the Board with a view of getting possession from the Estates Commissioners of this surplus land to which you refer in this paragraph?—Yes, there has been, and I have a Memorandum of it here.

3162. What is the general effect of it, can you remember?—Yes; you caused a conference to be held between the Estates Commissioners and the Board. You were present yourself, and I was asked to attend. The Commissioners present were Mr. Wrench, Mr. Finnmore, and Mr. Bailey, and it was agreed that when the Estates Commissioners had surplus land on estates they were dealing with within or adjacent to congested districts, that they should enlarge the holdings on the estate, they would hand over the surplus to the Board, and that the Board should act likewise to them. The Estates Commissioners have never communicated with the Board in compliance with that in any way that I am aware of.

3163. But would it not be a good plan if you were to watch the operations of the Estates Commissioners in the neighbourhood of your congested estates with a view of causing them to set up to that agreement?—I do not know how I could do that.

3164. Well, if they admitted the principle, it is a matter of practice to keep them up to it. So that the distinction you draw is susceptible of mitigation by the arrangement you refer to?—If it be carried out. It has been agreed to, and it has not had any effect.

3165. If the arrangement were actively carried out in actual practice, there would not be this divergence?—No; I am adhering strictly to what has happened.

3166. The CHAIRMAN.—Just in connection with what Sir Anthony said. I understood that Sir Anthony's argument was that that points of difference were capable of arrangement, and that in fact an arrangement had been come to between the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board, on the principle that the unencumbered land should be handed to you to settle local claims?—Yes.

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3167. Do I then understand you to say that that arrangement only applies to untenanted land which lies adjacent to congested areas?—Within or adjacent.

The CHAIRMAN.—An arrangement of that kind would not by any means be sufficient, would it, if you are dealing with untenanted land for the purpose of migration to a considerable distance?

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Could it not be extended?

The CHAIRMAN.—It has not been extended.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—We were then dealing with untenanted lands in the immediate neighbourhood of congested areas.

3168. The CHAIRMAN.—I can understand perfectly that there should be an arrangement of that kind come to between the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board. I mean that when untenanted land lay adjacent to congested areas, the congested areas had a greater claim than the sons of tenants, or evicted tenants?—Well, I will not include the evicted tenants as it is generally admitted they are to be treated generously.

3169. Then we will leave that out—that the congested areas had greater claims than the sons of tenants?—Yes.

3170. If you made an arrangement of that kind with regard to untenanted areas remote from congested areas, don't you see the difficulty—that the Estates Commissioners would then practically curtail the strong local claims of sons of tenants and bring in congested from a considerable distance?—Oh, yes.

3171. Do you think an arrangement of that kind would be easily effected with regard to an area remote from a congested district as where the area lies adjacent?—The claim of the unoccupied holder adjacent to that area would be stronger than that of the unoccupied holder from a remote district. The claim of either of these unoccupied landholders should be much stronger than the claim of a son of a tenant.

3172. Certainly, and therefore your claims being weaker with regard to areas remote from the congested district, presumably the Estates Commissioners would be very reluctant to enter into an arrangement of this kind with regard to them?—The view I would like to put to the Commission would be this, that it really should not matter whether it is the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board are dealing with congestion; that they should act in precisely the same way, and deal with the problem in the same manner; that there should be no difference of treatment, of policy, or of procedure.

3173. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Would it be possible to carry out that suggestion of yours? If I understood you, you mean that—that the Estates Commissioners in taking such lands should deal with them in the same way?—My suggestion is, that either one body or the other should be charged with dealing with these districts and not to have two departments doing similar work in the same area.

3174. The CHAIRMAN.—The point I want to make clear is this, do you think an arrangement such as you say has been come to with regard to adjacent areas can be made workable with regard to areas lying remote?—It should be quite easy. I can see no difficulty at all about it if there was a desire to make it work.

3175. If it should be easy, how do you propose that the Estates Commissioners should create new tenants?—They ought to get land further inland—a long distance from the congested districts.

3176. The Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The point is, is not the difficulty greater if you have to make an arrangement with regard to property bought by the Board far from that first scheduled area if the property had been near the scheduled area?—It may or it may not. In some districts, as on the grass lands, of Roscommon, there is practically no population, and that difficulty is not likely to arise; the local tenants are easily satisfied.

3177. The CHAIRMAN.—You say that the Estates Commissioners should buy land further afield for the purpose of creating new tenants?—Yes.

3178. Take Roscommon, for instance, the untenanted lands there?—The Board want the whole of the grass land available in Roscommon, and in each of the counties which contain congested districts.

3179. Then you would say that the arrangement with the Estates Commissioners should be this, if they

bought untenanted land in Connaught, that land should be given to you?—I say that untenanted land in Connaught should first be applied to the enlargement of unoccupied holdings, and relief of congestion before providing holdings for homeless persons.

3180. Oh, that is going into another point. You have not the powers at present to buy land?—Yes.

3181. Do you suggest that the Estates Commissioners should create new tenants outside Connaught, and send the sons of Connaught farmers outside Connaught, and give them the untenanted land?—Yes, certainly. If it be the policy of the Government to provide for the sons of Connaught farmers, there is no reason why they should go into Leitrim than the heads of families settled on unoccupied holdings.

3182. If that is your view, do you imagine with regard to the grass lands of Roscommon the arrangement that has been made as to untenanted lands lying next to the congested areas is possible—do you think the Estates Commissioners would agree to a point of view such as yours?—I don't know. When we discussed the matter—

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—They have done it. The question of closeness was not essential to the agreement, it was not a factor in the question put before the Estates Commissioners. What we wanted was to ensure our getting from the Estates Commissioners untenanted land when in the progress of their work such land came into their possession, provided the untenanted land was such as we wanted for the purpose of relieving the congested districts. I would like to read this extract from the minutes of a conference held in Dublin Castle on the 23rd October, 1904, between the Estates Commissioners and the Under Secretary, at which Mr. Doran and Mr. Stuart—who was the representative of the Estates Commissioners—were present. It was arranged as follows:—

(a.) That in cases where the Estates Commissioners purchase any estate containing untenanted land in a congested district county, they shall, after meeting all reasonable requirements of the unoccupied holdings on the estate, or any special cases that they may consider necessary to deal with, offer to them such lands as they may not require for the purposes named, and that on the other hand the Congested Districts Board shall offer to the Estates Commissioners any lands that may come into their hands which they may consider suitable for the purposes of the Estates Commissioners. And, secondly, where applications are made to the Estates Commissioners to purchase estates comprising considerable portions of untenanted land in a congested district county, the Congested Districts Board shall be informed, so that they may have an opportunity of conferring with the Estates Commissioners as to the best methods to be adopted to promote a policy common to both.

3183. The Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The point that is put to you is this—is it any easier to give effect to that agreement when the land purchased is near the congested district than when it is remote?—That arrangement applies to the entire congested districts county.

3184. You have not answered my question. Is it any easier to give effect to that agreement when the land purchased is near the congested district than when it is remote?—I have already said it was. That was in October, 1904, and from that date to this the Estates Commissioners never showed any desire to confer with the Congested Districts Board.

3185. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—And might I say you never showed any desire to confer with them. After all, who wants the land? Is it not the Congested Districts Board? Is it their business to keep a sharp look out—any land bought should not escape them?—I understand that agreement to be this—that when the Estates Commissioners had satisfied the requirements of the tenants they were dealing with, any surplus land on their hands would then be offered to the Congested Districts Board. If I thought my application on behalf of the Board would not have been considered an intrusion I certainly would have made it.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It would not have been so.

3186. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Are there any such cases?—There must be as they have given holdings to sons of tenants and other landless persons, near where we want land.

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3187. Don't you think it was the duty of your Board to apply to the Estates Commissioners and point out how you might use part of the land lying over?—I think not. We were not aware of what surplus they had. It was for them to confer with the Board and offer the land, and not for the Board to ask for it.

3188. Is it likely the Congested Districts Board will ever have a sufficient surplus?—It will altogether depend on legislation—on what this Royal Commission reports.

3189. The Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Might it not frequently happen that in purchasing at remote distances you would have land which could be more conveniently administered by the Estates Commissioners than by the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

3190. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—I want to know this—the date that agreement was arrived at in 1894 are estates been bought within the congested area by the Estates Commissioners?—Yes; within and adjacent.

3191. I am limiting myself from 1894. When you know that an estate was going to be purchased, or was in process of purchase by the Estates Commissioners, did you make any communication to the Estates Commissioners asking for the land to be reserved?—No. I considered that would be an intrusion.

3192. Upon the Estates Commissioners dealing with property in a congested district, you are not conscious of their schemes or arrangements?—No.

3193. Therefore, it is not until the whole thing is complete that you can be aware whether there is any surplus land at all?—Quite so.

3194. Mr. O'NEILL.—With regard to the Clannorris estate. Suppose you bought that estate would you not be compelled to give a great portion of that estate to migrate as the law now stands?—Yes.

3195. And, therefore, if the Estates Commissioners did not get a part there would be no hope of any improvement in the condition of the holdings on the estate that are uneconomic?—If the Board purchased they would apply to have the estate scheduled, and they could then enlarge the uneconomic holdings, and return the surplus for the benefit of landholders at the scheduled districts.

3196. I thought it was the other way. Suppose you scheduled?—We can't do that until we have bought the estate.

3197. Then I understand, in the first instance, you should use the grass lands for the benefit of those who would migrate from the congested districts?—No; when we have bought an estate and had it scheduled we can deal with it then as we like.

3198. But where, then, is the need of asking for a new definition of congestion?—I don't know exactly what you mean.

3199. We were discussing for a considerable time on the first and second day of the Commission that the present definition was too arbitrary a one, and should go by the board?—I understand the objection made was that the districts were arbitrarily scheduled.

3200. Maybe I have not made myself clear, but I understand that when you get hold of land and open negotiations for its purchase, you only purchase it for the benefit of people in the scheduled area?—Yes, the Board must purchase for the benefit of the scheduled districts.

3201. And that if you have any surplus land left over, not essential to the needs of those for whom you have bought, you can dispose of it to farmers, people adjacent to the estate bought?—Yes, people not on the estate. If the Board buy an estate in a non-congested district, they can only buy it when that estate is mainly untenanted land, because the reason for buying is to benefit the congested districts. When the Board do buy an estate that is mainly untenanted, but partly tenanted, they can then get the estate scheduled, and can immediately enlarge the uneconomic holdings on that estate before considering outside claims. But, on the other hand, they can't give land to enlarge an uneconomic holding which was not on the estate, nor in a scheduled district. The Estates Commissioners do not usually alter the old holdings they hold in detached parts, but leave them as they are and give additional parcels of land.

3202. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—That is not generally the case; they do it occasionally, I understand?—Yes.

3203. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you know from your own experience, or from local rumour, that the Estates Commissioners have bought estates in rural areas and have merely added portions of other lands and re-sold to the tenants without re-striping?—I have not said rural. It is rumoured, however, they have.

3204. Then, what do you mean?—Small, detached plots of land. Ruridale is unfenced land which is only separated when in crop and grazed in summer.

3205. I understand. That blue and red map is an illustration of ruridale?—If each of those red portions on the map were enclosed by a fence it would be described as being in detached parts. When they are not fenced in, and the boundaries only indicated by marks set up on ground, the boundaries are shown in the map by dotted lines. That is ruridale. On the ground there is no fence and when under crops each landholder occupies his own plots as mapped out. When not under cultivation the cattle graze all over.

3206. Do you know any instances in which the Estates Commissioners have bought land and re-sold without re-striping?—I have no personal knowledge, but it is stated such holdings have been sold. The Board's procedure is to insist on the amalgamation of old holdings when they have additional land to give, and thus consolidate the old holdings.

3207. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—Just before you pass on, Mr. Dunn, regarding the Estates Commissioners' practice in selling in detached plots, are you speaking of estates bought by the Estates Commissioners under Section 5 of the Act, or do you refer to the estates sold by the landlord to his tenants?—To both.

3208. The practice in each case is, I understand, entirely different under the Estates Commissioners. When the landlord sells to his tenants he deposits his agreement with the Estates Commissioners. The Estates Commissioners have no power of interference at all. They merely register agreements and, if the legal requirements are fulfilled, make the advance?—I am including all transactions of the Estates Commissioners and Land Commission in connection with the Act of 1903.

3209. Under Section 5 the sales with the Estates Commissioners have been very few?—That does not weaken my case, because my object in drawing attention to this matter is to show that when the tenants purchased their holdings in these districts through the Estates Commissioners adjacent to where the Board is operating in a different way, it makes the Board's work more difficult. It does not make any difference whether it is under Section 5 or under any other Section. The sales are all through the Land Commission, and when the tenants find that the Board puts them to a lot of trouble and bother in re-arranging their holdings, whereas the Estates Commissioners—

3210. Assuming the practice is as I say, namely, that these sales are made by the landlord to the tenant in detached plots, would you advocate the transfer to the Estates Commissioners of the power of dealing with the lands as you now deal with them, would you prohibit re-sale of such lands before consolidation?—I consider it is very objectionable to allow holdings held in that way to be sold, and that before any advance is made by the State to enable tenants to purchase such holdings, either the Estates Commissioners or some other body should have the holdings properly arranged, and not sold to remain as they now are for ever and a day.

3211. That is an objection to the Land Purchase Act as it stands?—These are objections to the existing procedure of the Land Commission, which includes the Estates Commissioners.

3212. The CHAIRMAN.—Would you be prepared to take this view. On an estate which is shown to be composed of holdings below a certain valuation that any sale from the landlord to the tenant direct should be forbidden?—My view is this. When the vendor's map is submitted to the Estates Commissioners it purports to show the boundaries of the holdings, and when it appears from that map some of the holdings are in detached parts a sale should not be sanctioned without an inspection, and then, if the inspector reports he is satisfied there is a good reason—as there very often is, owing to difference in the quality and character of the land—if he is satisfied it should be re-arranged, the Estates Commissioners should decline to make an advance until it is re-arranged.

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3213. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—There never is a sale until there is a previous inspection.—There are sales within the zone.

3214. It does not make any matter whether there is a sale within the zone or outside the zone there must be an inspection for occupancy.—Then the Land Commission must take the entire responsibility of being assenting parties to such sales as these.

3215. Your suggestion is most important; sales by the landlord to the tenant should not be carried through if they perpetuate that sort of checker board system.—Unquestionably they are, and nothing is being done to prevent it. The Board could get rid of half their estates in about six months if they sold the old holdings without alteration of boundaries, and there would not be a complaint except perhaps from a few of the more enterprising of the tenants who would object to the holdings being sold in that way.

3216. The CHAIRMAN.—The fact of the matter is that the function for which the Estates Commissioners were called into being is a function entirely different from that which has been your function in the congested areas.—Quite so. Their function primarily is the transfer of land from the present owner in fee to the occupier; the primary function of the Board is to alter and re-arrange every estate they buy. If there is no necessity for any alteration on an estate offered them they should not buy it. The Estates Commissioners transfer areas of tithary to tithers to be allotted to tenants as required. I told you yesterday the Board have never thought it was to do this on the poor class of untenanted estates they are dealing with, and they adopt the much more troublesome, but satisfactory, plan of assigning to each tenant tithary plots defined on the ground and on maps. Up to 1903 such plots were shown on the maps lodged with the purchase agreements, and are now shown on maps attached to tithary deeds signed by the parties interested. The Estates Commissioners charge interest on the purchase price in lieu of rent from the date the undertakings to purchase are signed. The Board buy estates in whole and do not fix the price of each holding until after re-arrangement of estate or tithary, and they require the tenant to pay full rent up to the time of purchasing their holdings. Against this the majority of the smaller landlords earn a considerable amount of wages on the improvement works.

3217. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—On the last point the practice of the Estates Commissioners would presumably be more popular than the practice of the Board.—Much more so, and the procedure throughout of the Estates Commissioners is more popular because the Board is much more exacting, but when the work is all over and done the Board's methods are declared by the people themselves to be very much more satisfactory in the case of these poor estates. In many cases the chief inducements to buy their holdings are a settlement of the arrears and an immediate reduction in their rents. Sometimes when the Board buy an estate, and don't give the tenants an immediate reduction in their rents they get quite rebellious with the Board. I do not draw attention to these matters to find fault with the Estates Commissioners' work, but to point out the objection of two departments dealing with the same class of estates in a different manner. Their procedure is much the readiest and most popular, but it is not suited for the poor estates the Board are dealing with.

3218. Just one question with regard to changing interest instead of rent. Was not there some discussion at the Board on a proposal made to reduce the payments made by tenants on estates purchased by the Board along that opinion, but I think the majority of the members of the Board do not agree that it is a sound thing to do. They think it better to spend all the money they can in improving the estate, and it is no hardship to any of the small tenants to pay their rents when they have a chance of earning the whole of it, and more, or perhaps three rents within the year.

3219. Is there a practice of revising the rental when the Board acquires possession of an estate and re-adjusting the payments?—Yes. Immediately after the vendor enters into his preliminary agreement with the Board for the purchase an official of the Board on my staff attends on the estate and compares the rents set out in the vendor's rental with the last rent receipts

which the vendor had issued to the tenants, so that in that way we may see that the total rental which the Board are being asked to buy corresponds with those receipts, and also that the arrears which the Board have agreed to buy corresponds with the arrears shown on the receipts produced.

3220. Does that policy result in any lessening of the easing of the burden on the tenant in regard to rent?—No. It would not have that effect.

3221. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—When the Board agree to charge rent instead of interest in the interval before the sale to the tenant is it the feeling of the Board that the interval should be made as short as possible?—Yes.

3222. And that the estates should be quickly vested in the Board, and the improvements carried on with expedition?—Yes. If the estates were vested within a few months after the Board agree to purchase and we had capital enough we could go on with the improvement work forthwith.

3223. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—By continuing the levy of rent from the tenants while the estates are in preparation for sale the Board is put in possession of funds which it expends in improving the estates.—Yes.

3224. So that the Board makes nothing in point of fact; but the tenants on the various estates—do they get in another shape the money which they pay in rent?—Yes; they get the entire benefit, because the more revenue we get from the estate to cover expenditure the cheaper they can get their holdings after improvement.

3225. So that there is no hardship on the tenants for paying rent instead of interest?—There are substantial advantages, and I don't think there is any hardship.

3226. The CHAIRMAN.—Just before you pass from that subject above is one general question I wish to ask you. Do you know whether the Estates Commissioners, if they wished, could, under their present powers, adopt a procedure in regard to these congested estates like your procedure?—I think it would be more satisfactory if you asked them.

3227. You don't know if they have the power?—I believe they have in the case of congested estates.

3228. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You mentioned arrears. Has it occurred at any time that the Board purchased an estate upon which there were arrears of rent?—We never purchase an estate on which there are not arrears of rent. There are few, if any estates in the congested districts without arrears.

3229. What do you do with the arrears of rent?—We always purchase them. Otherwise the landlord would have the power of recovering them after we purchased the fee-simple of the estate.

3230. Do you pay the full amount?—No, we never pay the full amount. They are never worth life in the pound. They are more frequently worth life in the pound.

3231. Then, according to what circumstances do you get them reduced?—We offer what we consider to be a fair price for them, and we only charge that to the estate, the balance is cancelled when we come to square up matters.

3232. They are not transferred to the tenants after wards?—No, the tenants are not asked to pay more of the arrears than the proportion which the Board have to pay.

3233. And when you have fixed the amount of arrears do you take wide considerations into account such as the circumstances of the estate you purchase—whether that the way the rents are easy to collect or otherwise?—Yes. If we thought they were very bad arrears we would not give anything for them. We insist on having a conveyance of the arrears, otherwise the owners may sue the tenants.

3234. They are always made a matter of negotiations?—Yes. We omitted that at first in a few cases, and the landlord sued the tenants after he had sold to the Board.

3235. Have you any idea what is the proportion of the nominal arrears you have paid?—Supposing there were £1,000 of arrears.—Where the arrears would not be more than a year we would generally give half a year's rent for them. But in case it was larger and old arrears—accumulating arrears—we would need give more than a year's rent. There might be four years due on the estate, and we might say we do not consider them worth more than a year's rent.

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3236. You don't transfer them—you wipe them out?—Yes, as soon as we become owners of the estate, but we cannot do it before that.

3237. As there are no large areas of non-scheduled grazing tracts in any of the congested districts counties outside Connanght, the land settlement in Connanght requires special treatment in connection with the purchase and distribution of these grass areas?—In my opinion it is a mistake to have two public departments applying different methods in the same district to the treatment of these very critical problems. The Board and the Estates Commissioners should act together and as one body in dealing with Connanght, as I shall explain later on, or one of the two be entrusted with the distribution of the grazing lands of Connanght, and whichever body undertakes that work should also be charged with the duty of stripping and re-arranging the congested estates in these counties, whether such be within or outside the scheduled areas, for it is necessary that the Department dealing with the settlement of the poor estates should have control of whatever suitable grass lands are available for the relief of congestion, and for the enlargement of uneconomic holdings irrespective of the boundary limits of the congested districts. If there remains any surplus land after satisfying the requirements of the small landholders, it can at any time be readily disposed of to the sons of tenants and other suitable landless persons with capital who are anxious to settle upon the lands.

3238. Mr. O'KELLY.—I was questioning you a few moments ago with regard to the Glanmorris property. Do I understand the position is this, because it is quite relevant to what you are just saying now. If the Glanmorris property were purchased by the Congested Districts Board, the Board could have an application made to have the property scheduled as congested. If it were scheduled the Board would be able to make economic the uneconomic holdings on the estate?—Yes.

3239. Sub-section 1 of section 75 of the Land Purchase Act of 1903 provides that where the Congested Districts Board purchase land for the benefit of a congested districts county, they may sell under the Land Purchase Acts any parcels thereof which are not required for tenants of holdings in that county to any tenants or proprietors of holdings not exceeding £5 in rateable value on an estate adjacent to or in the neighbourhood of that land or to any sons of such tenants. Do I understand you to take it that the estate adjacent to or in the neighbourhood of that land must be within a scheduled area?—Yes; unless they have a surplus of land over after satisfying the requirements of the congested districts.

3240. But if you have a surplus over?—We have had no surplus.

3241. I am assuming that you have?—You are assuming an impossibility under present conditions.

3242. It is a pure assumption. If when both these clauses were enacted there was a surplus over?—On the Glanmorris Estate there was a quantity of unscheduled lands, and there were a number of tenants, some of whom had uneconomic holdings. If the Board bought that estate they could, after having it scheduled, enlarge all the uneconomic holdings, but you are aware that they would be obliged in discharging their functions in the ordinary way to utilise the remainder of the land for the benefit of landholders from the congested districts, and unless they failed to dispose of the land in that way they could not give any of it to the adjoining occupiers of holdings not exceeding £5 in rateable value, or to any sons of such tenants, but if they fail to dispose of it in that way they could then dispose of it to adjoining occupiers, irrespective of whether they were in congested or non-congested districts, whose holdings were under £5 rateable value. I want to get that £5 raised to £10.

3243. The CHAIRMAN.—The limit is too low?—Yes. A £5 holding is too small.

3244. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—A while ago Mr. O'Kelly asked you a question, and it would be well to clear up your answer to it. He wished to know in case an estate was bought outside a congested area if the Congested Districts Board were perfectly free to raise to the proper economic level all the small holdings in the neighbourhood of that estate, but outside the congested area; whether under these circumstances all difficulties about scheduling would disappear, or

would not all difficulties about scheduling be notably mitigated?—The lands I would schedule would be the grass lands, and the Board should have power to enlarge uneconomic holdings near it, no matter whether they were in a scheduled or non-scheduled district.

3245. If when you bought these lands in any part of Ireland you were free to improve the condition of small landholders in the neighbourhood, would not you in that way get over the difficulty of scheduling, as far as your operations are concerned?—Yes. I don't see any advantage in scheduling tenanted lands unless you have acquired untenanted lands to add to these. The only necessity for scheduling such land would be if there were any general administrative scheme in operation under which special grants in aid would be given to what would be scheduled as poor districts, then it would be necessary to have these clearly defined, but for the purpose of land distribution, in my opinion, what should be done is to get all the untenanted land you can and, when distributing it, have power to apply it to the enlargement of all uneconomic holdings.

3246. Mr. O'KELLY.—You would not have any definition at all. You would leave it to the discretion of the Congested Districts Board?—Whatever body had to deal with the relief of congestion.

3247. Let me assume the Congested Districts Board continues?—I would not penalise an uneconomic holder because he happened to be in a district that was not scheduled. I think one uneconomic landholder has as much claim for consideration as another, no matter where he is.

3248. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The provision is made already, because when a purchase is made outside a congested area the assent of the Lord Lieutenant has to be given in order that it may be scheduled?—I think if the Lord Lieutenant had the power to do that indefinitely you would get over the difficulty. What is the use of colouring more of that map line if you are not going to improve the district scheduled? The Board are reminded every week of large areas of the scheduled districts, for the improvement of which they have not done anything for want of funds or inability to devise a sound improvement or industrial scheme.

3249. Mr. O'KELLY.—Is not it well now to get at the full size of the problem?—If the Report of the Commission does not lead to a large measure for the improvement of the congested districts, no appreciable change in them will be effected in our generation with the present methods.

3250. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Why was the process of scheduling selected?—There is no doubt that they have located, by the process of scheduling adopted, substantially the poorest areas in Ireland. The other poor areas are much more isolated and not of such extent, and it is much more easy to rectify the condition of things there than in the West of Ireland.

3251. What interest is affected beneficially or otherwise by restricting the scheduling to these areas?—It was necessary for county administrative purposes to define the area of the congested districts.

3252. The county administration is not called in at all so far as I have heard to do anything to assist you?—It is supposed to, but it does not do anything.

3253. Mr. O'KELLY.—How is the county supposed to do anything?—In connection with the districts, in the areas scheduled, the Department gets £2,000 a year from the Board—a very small sum, no doubt.

3254. That Department was established long after the scheduling?—You asked me the question how the county came in at all. I was going to give you an explanation. The Board contribute £2,000 a year to the Department to give special aid to the congested districts.

3255. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That was subsequent to the passing of the first Congested Districts Act. It could not arise from what took place subsequently. What interest was supposed to be safeguarded by the adoption of the electoral area as the unit of congestion?—Mr. Micks, I thought, explained that fully. The electoral area was considered to be the most convenient area to adopt for locating this widespread poverty.

3256. It is not a reasonable thing to expect from you the reason why they put this into the Act, but I am just asking your opinion?—As far as I understand your point—

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3255. The CHAIRMAN.—May I suggest, or would you agree, that this was probably the reason—they found it necessary to deal with certain poor areas. The poverty of the West was pointed out to the Government. They then found out the sort of areas they wanted to deal with, and then looked about for a definition that would suit those areas?—Yes. Shortly, as I understood from Mr. Micks, they had already ascertained where the poorest areas were, and then they sought for a definition to bring them within.

3257. The definition was made to suit the areas instead of the areas being deduced from the definition?—Yes, and I think it was rather a sound principle.

3258. Mr. O'KELLY.—You said it should be in the discretion of the Board?—Certainly, because no general definition will meet the cases of the scattered areas of congestion.

3259. Mr. BYRON.—Mr. Micks thought the unit should have been a township; Mr. Mitchell thought the township would be too small, and you think it should be a matter of discretion?—As I explained already, the electoral division is made up of a number of townlands. The electoral division is merely a group of units represented by townlands.

3260. Mr. ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Referring to that passage in your memorandum in which you say it is a mistake to have two public Departments in the same district treating these problems, I would like to ask you this question. If you and all your officers were transferred to the Estates Commissioners, and if all the congested areas and the remedial work in connection with them were hereafter done under the auspices of the Estates Commissioners, do you think that any benefits would result from such a change, or do you think that there would be disadvantages from such a change?—It is a rather puzzling question, and I could only give you a speculative answer at the best.

3261. You state you think the work ought not to be done by two public Departments. My question is in point of fact, by which authority, which of the two public Departments do you think the work should be done by?—I must ask you, Sir Anthony, to allow me to answer in the Irishman's way, by asking another question, whether a prudent man, who had very important work of a special kind to get done, would entrust it to a party that had done similar work satisfactorily—that had been tried and found not wanting—or to a party that might do it just as well, but had not yet given any proof of what it could do? I think that is the position. The Board have now worked for seven or eight years in face of many difficulties. Until some members of the late Government took an interest in the Board's work nothing was done to remove the difficulties; but lately a great deal was done, and the Board took full advantage of it, and did all the work that I shall be able to show you, if you take the time to see it. The Board have done a great deal of work, and done it well, and are quite satisfied to be judged by results. Let the Estates Commissioners show what they have done, and we are quite satisfied to abide by the judgment of this Royal Commission as to which body should be entrusted with the work.

3262. Then your statement in the memorandum that the work should not be done by two Departments tells your own strong opinion that it should be done by the Congested Districts Board?—I think I am entitled to say that.

3263. That is your answer?—That is my answer, provided the Congested Districts Board got ample means and staff to do the work efficiently, and ample powers to acquire the necessary land.

3264. But you have ample powers?—No; we have not.

3265. Oh, you mean compulsory powers?—The Board have not sufficient powers. They should have ample powers to provide the remedies and ample funds to develop the congested districts industrially, agriculturally, and in every possible way. Ample powers, funds, and staff are the first essentials, and if these are not provided, and if the Board cannot face the treatment of the congested districts problems in a comprehensive and thorough manner, they should not undertake additional work without means of doing it efficiently. That is their position at present, and if continued for another twelve months they will

be discredited, and so lose their influence that they can do little good, and the sooner they are wound up the better.

3266. Mr. JAMES COLLINS.—Taking into consideration the fact that as we all know the economic position of Ireland has been more or less the football of alternate parties, is it, in your opinion, that your not being a Government Department and under the influence of political circumstances, smooths the way for dealing practically with the economic problems in your district?—I think it is the main reason why the Board has been successful.

3267. They are out of the turmoil of the political arena in consequence of the constitution of the Board, and in consequence of its not being a Government Department subject to the influence of whatever party happened to be in power?—Yes. I think that in considering the question of compulsory powers to acquire the necessary land, Irishmen ought to overlook religion and politics, and have no prejudices against such measures as are absolutely necessary for the development of the resources of the country. The settlement of the land question for the congested districts cannot be effected without a considerable amount of public money being expended upon it. It will cost less in the end to deal with it quickly in a large way than to keep on playing with it, as the Board have been doing up to the present.

3268. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—May I ask this question, as the matter is not one that I am immediately interested in. You mentioned that the Board is composed of certain elements?—Yes, of apparently antagonistic elements, yet such a happy party. But I believe it is a fact there was never a question but one put to a vote at the Board.

3269. Do you say that other great public Departments are actuated more by political influence and opinion than a Board constituted in that way?—I do. A great many of the heads of Departments get their position through political influence rather than on merits.

3270. But the Government of the day changes?—It does; but the administration of the man who is promoted does not change with the Government, except in the case of a successful trimmer. There are, however, such men to be found.

3271. He must conduct the business of his Department according to the Government in power?—Yes; a man can do his duty within the letter of the law, but that is sometimes a different thing from doing it within the spirit.

3272. You said certain things could be done by your Board if you got sufficient money and sufficient staff?—Yes.

3273. If sufficient money and staff are obtained you back up Sir Anthony MacDonnell's position that it matters very little who are the body who administer the work?—It does matter very little, but Sir Anthony put to me an awkward question, and I got out of it as well as I could, and I will appeal to you in the same way now as one coming from the land of the prudent Scot, whether you would entrust your business to a Department or body that had experience of the particular branch of work that you wanted done, or whether you would entrust it to persons who may be equally capable but as yet have had no experience.

3274. Mr. ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—But the basis of my question was if you and all your officers were transferred to the Estates Commissioners?—I have got on very well with the Board, and have done my work for them to their satisfaction.

3275. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—No body would replace the Board with the same independence?—I don't think I ought to go quite that far.

3276. The CHAIRMAN.—You said you think it is the best place that the land purchase operations must be done on a far larger scale than up to the present; up to the present they have been only temporary and patchwork—that is your view?—Yes.

3277. Therefore, you think that things have got to be done on a much larger scale. You contemplate in connection with that large purchase operations in Roscommon and throughout a large part of Connaught—is that so?—That is so.

3275. If the Board were empowered to make purchases on that large scale it would be necessary, would it not, to define very clearly the line between the land purchase operations of the Board and the land purchase operations of the Estates Commissioners?—It would.

3276. Obviously you could not have the Board with increased powers and funds operating over large tracts of land, say in Connacht, with the Estates Commissioners doing the same. There is sure to be overlapping to a great extent, even greater than already exists?—That is a serious difficulty. I could not suggest that the Board would be a competent body to enter into with the fixing of the compulsory price of the land to be acquired, and the Land Commission would have to do that.

3280. I am not talking now about compulsory purchase, but one way or another you are contemplating that the Board should be empowered to become purchasers of large tracts of country in order to deal with the problem as a whole. The Estates Commissioners have also got large powers. How would you draw the line between the region to be dealt with by the Congested Districts Board and the region to be dealt with by the Estates Commissioners?—The first line that would appear to me would be the boundary of the counties containing the congested districts. Let the Board operate exclusively in the counties containing congested districts, and let the remainder of Ireland be free to the Estates Commissioners.

3281. Mr. BAYNE.—There is a possibility that the operations of this Board or of whoever succeeds it, are going to extend all over Ireland in order to relieve those poor parts?—I am thinking of the scheduled districts, for it was in respect of them that I understood the question to be put to me. The other congested areas scattered over the country would be much more easy to deal with than the congestion in the scheduled areas.

3282. The CHAIRMAN.—If you had powers even to buy land solely in the counties in which there were congested areas at present would that give you sufficient land to deal with the congestion even in the scheduled area?—The figures show that in Connacht it would be practicable, that is, on the basis of the figures I gave you, but there will be much larger deficiency in the revised figures I am asked to supply to you.

3283. And if you add the poor areas which are at present not scheduled in those counties?—And, of course, there is also the fact that you may find reasons under which you would not seek to get possession of a considerable portion of this land colored green.

3284. Even supposing you were to make the defining line Connacht, and you were to say the Congested Districts Board alone were to have the power of purchasing west of the Shannon, and the Estates Commissioners were to confine their operations to the other portions of Ireland, does not it seem to you possible that if you have to deal in a large way with the congestion of the present scheduled areas and also of those poor areas in Connacht which are not scheduled, the Board might be compelled to go outside Connacht for the land necessary for, say, settlement?—Yes; that would make it more difficult.

3285. I want to get your view, because these are matters we shall have to consider?—They are matters that may affect my own official position, and therefore it is rather difficult for me to reply satisfactorily.

3286. When you say the Board have to deal with these things, I conclude that you have given consideration to the subject, and that you have in your mind some method by which you think the Board and the Estates Commissioners should be allocated distinct functions. I want to know what the idea is?—I suggested the counties containing congested districts, but I have not a satisfactory answer to your point.

3287. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is it necessary to go by local area? Would not it be sufficient to assign to the Congested Districts Board estates requiring rearrangement and enlargement of holding, and assign to the Estates Commissioners estates which require simply transfer from the landlord to the tenant?—That is the arrangement the Board have tried to follow up to the present.

The CHAIRMAN.—Do you want to know without's opinion as to whether the Congested Districts Board should not only deal with estates sold in glebe, but also those sold direct from the landlord to the tenant? Sept. 14, 1906
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3289. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Not quite so. I wish to know from the witness would it not be a suitable division of functions between the two bodies if the estates which required rectification of boundaries, estate improvements, and enlargement of holdings were assigned to the Congested Districts Board, and those estates assigned to the Estates Commissioners on which all that was to be done was to transfer the estates from the proprietors to the occupiers?—It would be the most convenient way.

3290. The CHAIRMAN.—Is that the principle on which you are acting now?—Except that we have not acted on the recommendation which was read, and which implied an arrangement to keep in close touch with the Estates Commissioners.

3291. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Suppose the Estates Commissioners did not deal with the problems which you have described, and they were left to the Congested Districts Board, special arrangements being made either administratively or by statute, would not a sufficient division result between the two bodies?—Yes, if the arrangement was taken up cordially by both Departments.

3292. The CHAIRMAN.—Suppose you could ensure by some means or other that the necessary improvements would be effected, and care given, as you have given it, to the enlargement of these holdings and the rearrangement of them generally, would not it be much more convenient if the purchase operations for the whole country were in the hands of one body? I must say it would appear to be so *prima facie*, because, I think, one body should be in a position to look at the problem as a whole, unhampered by any arbitrary definitions. They ought to be able to look at the thing as a whole, and buy whatever land is wanted for the solution of this problem; does not that seem to you to be a more convenient method than to have two bodies both exercising powers in the matter?—It would be if such a body could do it. I don't say they could do it as effectively as the Congested Districts Board. The reason I suggest that such a body may not be able to do it as effectively is that the Congested Districts Board constituted as it is and with its representative character, strengthened by the addition of elected members, might be able to allay local feeling, and ease the way in connection with the distribution of these grass lands, and the striping of holdings, and things like that in a manner that an official body could not do. That is the best case I can put for the Board in that respect. I don't say that the official body could not do it, but I put to you what I have stated as the consideration in favour of an unofficial body like the Congested Districts Board.

3293. If the powers of the Board are very much enlarged, as you would like to see them enlarged, does not it seem to you that the constitution of the Board should be placed on a very different basis from what it is now?—Yes; I think so. Not a very different basis, but I think that they should have more of a representative element upon it, and that the present members should remain.

3294. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you think that it is within the range of practical politics that Parliament will give practically unlimited public money and unlimited powers of applying it to a Board wholly free from the control of Parliament or of the Government of the day?—I am afraid I will have to say it does not seem probable.

3295. You have never heard of such a case?—No; not to the extent that would be necessary in this case.

3296. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Say that the existing method of distribution of scheduled areas was shelved altogether, and you had a clean slate, and you allowed the Estates Commissioners to purchase estates all over Ireland more largely under the operation of Section 6 of the Land Purchase Act than now, and that when they happened in that way to purchase a congested estate they would have ready a section of their Department—I mean the whole of your organisation—and that they would turn it on to that congested estate which they got, and treat it exactly as you have been treating congested estates which you bought—do you see anything impracticable in dealing with congestion work under that system as effected

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trally as you do now?—Not with the qualification I have just stated.

3307. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you see this inconvenience in it—that the body to promote these improvements, and especially migration under such a scheme would have none of the local influence or confidence enjoyed by the Congested Districts Board?—That is the qualification I have just referred to.

3308. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—Could not that be overcome by the creation of local committees?—Possibly.

3309. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you think an advisory committee would have the same standing in this matter as a body of men who would act as of right, and not as a matter of privilege or toleration?—I would not consider they would.

3310. You would consider a body depending on the suzerainty of no one the best body to deal with delicate questions like this in practice?—They ought to be if they are in true touch with the needs of the people.

3311. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would such an amalgamation as is suggested be a financial gain to the country?—I think the Board's work could not be done as cheaply as it is by any other public department. I think there would be increased expenditure in administration.

3312. Mr. BRYCE.—Suppose the Board were continued, and, as you say, strengthened by a representative element, would you prefer that representative element to be elective or nominated?—I think it should be elective. Otherwise the Board would not have the popular representation that I say is desirable.

3313. We heard from Mr. Mitchell a great many objections to the elective principle?—Yes; he differs from me.

3314. You don't think those objections be too urged against the elective principle are strong enough to overbalance the advantages?—I think the objections he states are very strong ones, that is to say, if you had a nominee, say, of each County Council added to the Congested Districts Board, and that the representative of a county would feel it his duty to have a part of the funds of the Board diverted to some purpose for the benefit of his county. That would be the immediate danger; but if the elected members of the Congested Districts Board took that narrow view of their functions the Board would be a complete failure. You have to face that possibility. I would say the enlarging of the Board by further nominated members would not strengthen but would weaken its influence, and in my opinion if it is not safe to trust the elective element you must either leave the Board as it is or extinguish the Board.

The Commission adjourned.

EIGHTH PUBLIC SITTING.

SATURDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1906,

AT 10.30 O'CLOCK A.M.

At 35, Dawson-street, Dublin.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUDLEY, G.C.V.O. (Chairman); The Right Hon. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL, G.C.B.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMER, K.C.M.G.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; CONOR O'KEILLY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAUGH, Esq., D.L.; ARTHUR SUTHERLAND, Esq.,

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary

Mr. HENRY DORAN, further examined.

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3305. The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. DORAN, we touched the list of migrants in your Memorandum last night!—Yes.

3306. Well, you have told us a good deal about the migrants—I have, my lord, and I can hand in that list. The only point of importance in the figures which I set out in my notice is one that relates to the question which Sir Anthony was referring to last evening as to how the annuities compared with the fair rent of the holdings. That was the reason why I gave those figures to put on record what they are. If I read them it won't take more than a few minutes.

3307. Yes!—The gross area included in the 238 holdings of migrants is 4,101 acres, and the average area of a holding is 39 acres. The gross estimated fair rent of these holdings, including buildings, \$4,331 7s. 11d. The estimated fair rent of the land, excluding the buildings, is \$2,638. The gross annuity for such of these holdings as have been sold under the 4 per cent. annuity is \$476, and for the remainder, which were sold under the 3½ per cent. annuity, \$2,915. The average rent of each holding at time of purchase was \$18. The average annuity in the 4 per cent. cases was \$9 10s. 7d., and in the 3½ per cent. cases \$11 1s. 6d., that is to say, comparing the annuity with the estimated fair rent at the time of the sale, it is, you may take it, \$15 average rent and \$11 1s. 6d. average annuity.

3308. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Who from the average rent?—I do with the aid of my staff. We value the holdings before the tenancy is formed, and our valuation may be taken as the equivalent to a second year rent. The migrant is told the rent, and the purchase money before he is asked to make up his mind as to whether he will take the holding or not.

3309. Whether he will buy?—Before he goes into the holding he is told all this. Before he is asked to leave his own holding he is shown the new one, and if the holdings are not upon it I have a set of six different plans or designs, and the tenant is allowed to take his choice. (Witness indicates plans.) The plans that the tenant usually selects are No. 3 plan or No. 6 plan. No. 6 is a two-storey plan. It has on the ground floor a living room and bedroom, and a place for poultry is placed outside the back of the kitchen fire, the object being to keep it warm in the winter; the upstairs plan shows two good bedrooms. That is a very roomy house, having three large bedrooms and a living room. Then No. 3, which has been selected in a large number of cases, consists of a living room with three bedrooms off it, and a dairy at the rear of the house with a back door and a porch. It is a one-storey house. Another plan is of the same design, with one room less; and another is a design for a living room and bedroom on the ground floor, with rooms over the living room and bedroom, lighted with gable windows. Then another, and this is one put up on the poorest kind of holding, such as you saw at Carra, has a living room and bedroom, and a recess in

the wall for a bed usually set apart for the old couple, and there are two bedrooms.

3310. The CHAIRMAN.—I don't think we need go into these details.—Very well, my lord. Then in the 14th Report and the 15th Report of the Board you have full details with reference to the cost of the Board's migration operations, so that I won't trouble you repeating them except to say that the net result of the Board's operations is that the average cost of settling each of the migrants on a new holding works out at \$24 on \$50 new holdings to March, 1905.

3311. That is the average?—Yes.

3312. Mr. BRYCE.—I think it would be desirable to have this in evidence, if Mr. Doran would put in this description of these cottages, with the cost. There is a good deal of discussion going on in England about this particular point, and it might be put in evidence as a paper.

The CHAIRMAN.—I am sure Mr. Doran can do that.

Mr. BRYCE.—And draw up a table?—I could, but as a matter of fact the full details of the cost of one of these houses are given, as I have pointed out in the 14th Report, the cost of labour, masonry, skilled labour, and the actual cost.

3313. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—Is the average \$27?—\$24 up to March, 1905, but the average for the year ending 1905—March, 1906—works out at \$27. This may appear high, but it should be borne in mind that this loss is not properly chargeable against the benefits conferred upon the migrants alone, for the removal of one migrant's family enabled the Board to confer substantial advantages upon the persons whose holdings were enlarged by the addition of parcels of the migrant's vacated lands. When a migrant vacates a holding of considerable size several people may thus be benefited. I would say, as far as the Board's transactions have gone, that at least four families have been benefited on an average by the removal of each migrant, so that in considering the cost of a single transaction, and the benefits conferred it may be taken that four or five families have had their condition substantially improved by the net loss of \$24, I say this loss will be greater in future transactions, as a higher price has been paid for estates under the Act of 1903, and they will be retained on hands for a shorter period. I think, my lord, I need not go into the next paragraph. I think it has been discussed in a general way in reference to the selection of migrants.

3317. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you think that migrating a family costs you more than if the man remains in the place and you improve his holding?—Oh, yes; much more; but it is a much smaller and more reproductive expenditure, than that upon the improvement of holdings that remain too small to be made economic. If even at a cost of \$150 the head of a family is placed on a holding on which he can support his family decently, I would consider it a good investment for the State.

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3318. I understand that you don't dispute the advantage of migration as compared with enlargement on the spot, but it is the difficulties that you refer to?—The difficulties. Yes; but migration is necessary in order to effect the enlargement. The two things must go together as far as the congested area is concerned.

3319. But of course when you migrate a man you find a new holding?—Yes; but we destroy the identity of the old holding by amalgamating it with adjacent holdings.

3320. My point is the advantage of migration over the enlargement on the spot, if it can be done reasonably cheap. When you compare the expenditure of £84 per man with the expenditure which you have incurred upon Clare Island, do you think that each man whose holding is enlarged on Clare Island costs you £87 or more?—Oh, no; a great deal less. It did not cost £15.

3321. How many are there?—I think the net loss on the estate was something like £250, and there were 77 or 78 families settled, which would leave the average loss about £31.

3322. You don't think, do you, that their condition is as good as that of migrants under favourable circumstances?—Their condition is not so good. But what I want to make clear is that in the congested areas the enlargement of holdings to an economic standard is impossible without large migration. First of all you must migrate a number of people from the densely occupied areas before you can enlarge sufficiently the holdings of those who remain. I consider the £84 loss a very good investment for the State under the circumstances. I would say that even if it were £150 it would be a good investment, comparing that expenditure by the State with the loss from emigration. If you take the persons who leave the country at twenty years of age, at the time they are going to be self-supporting, and allow even less than a proper rate of maintenance, say £5 a year; each person who leaves the country at twenty years of age has cost the country at least £100, and that money would be much better spent in settling a head of a family at home than sending him to be a wealth producer in America.

3323. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Bearing in mind the question of comparative cost, would you say that the smallness of the loss incurred by the Board in Clare Island was due to the fact that the island was purchased so cheaply?—I don't say that Clare Island was purchased cheaply. The price paid for Clare Island, having regard to the nature of the tenure, and the condition in which it was at the time the Board bought it, was quite its value. The estate was in the market for years and no higher price was obtainable.

3324. Do you consider it at all likely that the Board could now purchase Clare Island for the same money?—I don't think they could, but the direct sale of Clare Island would not be possible under the 1903 Land Act in the conditions then prevailing. It would be uneasable.

3325. Mr. Kavanagh.—Would you always rather enlarge a holding where it was possible than migrate a family?—Yes, if you could enlarge to a satisfactory extent.

3327. Yes; you would always rather do that than migrate a family?—Yes; the people like it better, and it is very much less expensive, and it should be done in all cases where practicable.

3328. And therefore it is only where you cannot get the land available to enlarge that you suggest migration?—Yes; and that applies to the entire congested area, because if there was within it sufficient unoccupied land to raise the holdings to an economic standard, it would not be a congested district.

3329. But within a short distance?—Within a short distance, to enlarge the holdings rather than to migrate the people.

3330. The CHAIRMAN.—Will you now go on with the Memorandum?—I can pass over the next paragraph because it was discussed in a general way.

3331. And you need not refer to those individual migrants, of whom you gave us some excellent illustrations yesterday?—But I want just to point out in this Memorandum that since the passing of the Act of 1903 the Board have succeeded in moving the class of migrants that they have always been desirous to do.

3332. Mr. O'Kelly.—You have some holdings on the Annfield property?—Yes; what has happened is that the land that is not disposed of has been set apart for the enlargement of holdings on the estate. And as you have asked me the question I am obliged to say that the reason why they are not disposed of is this. We offered this land in parcels to the tenants for the enlargement of their holdings provided they allowed certain alterations to be made in the boundaries of their old holdings that were inconveniently laid out, but they have declined to allow their old holdings to be altered, or to accept the land unless they got it as new holdings. That is the explanation why the land is not disposed of.

3333. Do the tenants understand that the land that you have at Annfield would be given in addition, would be scripced out and given to each man?—The land that we have at Annfield has been striped, and each of the small tenants on the estate has been offered one of these defined parcels and told the rent, and the purchase money, and they have declined to accept them for the reason I tell you; they believe that if they hold back they will get their own way.

Mr. O'Kelly.—Do you think, Lord Dudley, that I should pursue this?

The CHAIRMAN.—It is rather a question of detail?

3334. Mr. O'Kelly.—I was merely going to suggest to Mr. Dewar whether it would not be just as well to give to the tenants additional to their old holdings considering that you would not build new houses on this estate as the old houses are rather substantial?—We did not ask these men to leave their present houses.

3335. What objection have you to adding on portions to these?—None, whatever, but we have made it a condition that certain alterations must be made in some of the old holdings that need consolidation. The fault in that case was altogether that of the tenants, not ours. They may be quite reasonable in November. It is only a flash in the pan, or playing what we call a game of bluff, and we always win at that.

3336. Do you not sometimes play that game yourself?—Frequently—a rotten game.

3337. The CHAIRMAN.—You tell us in your Memorandum, in the middle of page 17, that since the passing of the Act of 1903 you have been able to deal with a better class of migrants than before?—Yes, my lord.

3338. Why is that; how has the Act of 1903 helped you?—Because we have been able to get much more land, and the persons looking for new holdings had a larger area to select from. We had only a small area from which persons disposed to exchange could select from, but now that we have, under the Act, got a much larger area we are able.

3339-40. I don't think it is necessary to go into the cases of the various people mentioned in your Memorandum?—No, my lord.

3341. Sir FRANKS MOWATT.—The four migrants whom you have mentioned, are they the larger migrants or only specimens?—They are the largest we have, the only large ones in fact.

3342. Four?—Yes. One man gave us up 200 acres, and the others, large areas also.

3343. The CHAIRMAN.—And in your opinion the tendency is to increase?—If the Board had more land, my lord, I believe we would have more cases of that kind.

3344. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is not it the fact that in some cases you were unable to carry out such a large migration or movement, owing to local difficulties in the neighbourhood of the acquired land?—That is so, Sir Anthony. As I stated the other day, people like those would have gone to other grass lands the Board have on lands only for local application.

3345. Quite so, and you hope under different circumstances that the local difficulty and objection will be removed?—Will disappear. If it does not the country will suffer; it will be the fault of the people themselves, and the sooner they realise it the better.

3346. The removal of that difficulty is a matter of expectation and not a matter of certainty?—Indeed much more a matter of expectation.

3347. In fact it requires a change in local opinion?—A very decided change.

3348. For bringing about which you look to the pressure of public opinion upon the objectors?—Well, I am hoping that if the Government can see their way to deal in a large and generous manner with this problem of congestion in its various aspects, public sentiment will respond to that, and there will be a general desire for co-operation. If not, the problem remains unsolved, and things will have to go on very much as they are.

3349. So that, given the unattended land, the question of congestion in the future is not all plain sailing?—It depends upon the growth of public opinion in Ireland, which will reinforce your efforts?—That is so. As far as the Board's work is concerned we are never in smooth water; we are always in some difficulty.

3350. THE CHAIRMAN.—To make your opinion quite clear, you hold, don't you, that public opinion depends principally on the power that you have of settling claims?—I would be hopeful of getting the support of public opinion if we could put into operation remedial measures on a large scale. If not you won't succeed.

3351. In fact you think that if local claims can be settled, the public opinion to which Sir Antony has referred will help?—I am hopeful that it will help as he has pointed out, but I am not certain.

3352. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you consider in connection with that, Mr. Dorman, that the fact of having at your back a power enjoying local confidence and influence is of importance?—Yes, my lord, that was the strongest reason I could give yesterday for the continuance of the Board in the face of the objections that Sir Antony stated.

3353. Bearing on that point and on the settlement of the estates in the past, is it the fact that when you yourself had done your very best, both on Clare Island and on the Ffrench estate, a few difficulties remained for the settlement of which, for instance in stormy weather and in snow one of more members of the Board had to be imported?—Yes; these importations by members of the Board were of great assistance to me, but lately they have not inspected the estates frequently.

3354. That is to say, that the fact that the influential persons that you made use of were members of the Board was of great advantage to you in bringing some of the people to reason?—Yes.

3355. From which the assistance appears to be that if the Congested Districts Board were made more in accord with popular feeling through a representative element it would be of great advantage in promoting your schemes?—It ought to be so.

THE CHAIRMAN.—Do you think we need to go into this?

3356. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Whenever that question of popular feeling is raised I feel bound to ask this question as to the way in which popular opinion can be canalized in reference to the operations of the Board?—I mentioned also yesterday that a considerable number of holdings on the estates sold by the Board were sold although it was not possible to raise them to an economic standard. I desire to point out that the Board appreciated the gravity of this, but were unable to meet it. They did all they could within their power and the limits of their resources to improve and enlarge the holdings on the estates they purchased. They appealed, without effect, for more funds and compulsory powers to acquire valuable unattended land. They purchased practically all the suitable unattended land offered up to the passing of the Land Act of 1903, and they also acquired the tenant-right interest in any large holdings they could get for cash, or in exchange for unattended land outside the congested area. They applied all the unattended land they obtained to the enlargement of small holdings, where it was sufficiently adjacent to such holdings to be economically worked in conjunction with them. They utilized the remainder of the unattended land they acquired for agrarian transferred from other estates.

3357. Mr. BRYCE.—Can you tell us how often you made application for compulsory powers, at what dates and when they were refused?—A resolution of the Board is the only official record.

3358. Was it only done once?—It was only done once.

3359. When was that?—That was in 1905.

3360. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That was not an ap-

peal; that was a statement?—That they could not do the work efficiently unless they got these powers.

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3361. THE CHAIRMAN.—Was the resolution passed during the last year of Mr. Gerald Balfe's Chief Secretaryship?—I have it in my notes. It appears in the Board's Annual Report for the period ending March, 1905.

3362. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Am I not right in saying that within the last twelve months you also urged upon the Government the necessity of getting a Bill to amend the legislation passed in 1894?—I do not know that I can vouch for that. It was a matter that was discussed at every change of Government. Mr. Mitchell would be able to tell you. But nothing was done till Mr. Wyndham came. He was the only Chief Secretary that ever really took up the matter of facilitating the Board in obtaining land; and till he came nothing much was done. During the last year and a half the Board have done much more than during their previous existence in the way of purchasing land.

3363. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But you say that the Acts passed did not prevent you from purchasing practically all suitable unattended lands up to the passing of the Act of 1903?—That is so, Sir Francis. The Board were in funds from 1895 for the purchase of land, but they were not in funds to meet the loss sustained in treating them. So they were put in the position of purchasing more than they could deal with. Like the boy and the cats, taking more into his hand than he could draw through the neck of the jar. And they are in that position up to the present moment.

3364. To use an American expression, you bit off a larger piece than you could chew?—Quite that.

3365. THE CHAIRMAN.—Now, the next point?—The Board have been censured for not purchasing more properties; as a matter of fact they purchased practically all the suitable estates offered, though they have not got rid of them yet. They could not do more with the powers they possessed.

3366. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Who censured the Board?—I am not sure whether you had a voice in it.

3367. Is not it the fact that all the adverse criticism of the Board within the last twelve months was directed to their keeping on their hands for two or three years estates they purchased?—Yes. I think the criticism of the Board, speaking quite seriously, has been perfectly fair, and that they got as much credit as they deserved. All the criticisms are to the effect that what the Board had done it had done well, but that it did not do enough. I am not finding any fault with that criticism. If I had to reply, my answer would be, to put it in Sir Francis's way; the Board did not get the material to masticate the feed they were supplied with.

3368. But you said that the Board had been censured for not purchasing more property?—Well, I could give the names, but I think it would be rather objectionable.

3369. The idea I had in connection with the criticism of late months was that the Board should have purchased more actively than they did?—Yes.

3370. And that that was the cause of the difficulty in vesting and the delay in treatment?—I pass from that, my lord, and would like to explain to the Commission quite shortly what the Board have been able to do, to effect substantial improvements on many of the estates purchased by them by carrying out extensive drainage works such as are indicated on that map three, coloured blue. All the portions coloured blue represent lands that have been drained by the drainage of the river Lurg. The Lurg river drains a watershed of about 80 square miles.

3371. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Which map are you referring to now?—The one headed "Lurg River Drainage."

3372-3. It runs into Lough Gara?—The river Lurg runs into Lough Gara from Ulster Lake. The length of the river is over twenty-two miles. The Board have deepened and improved the river throughout its entire length, as well as having also deepened and improved the main tributaries of the river, which cover lengths of 45 miles. The total area drained by these operations is shown in blue colour on that map. It comes altogether to over 12,000 acres, of which about 6,000 shown in the dark blue are bog. I estimate that the value of the land is

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increased by the drainage to the extent of about £1,250 a year, the land selected blue having been valued in its undrained condition and valued after drainage. In addition to this Lang river, which is the largest operation of the kind, the Board carried out similar drainage works on all the main water courses passing through the estates they purchased. The Dalgan river, which is shown on this other map, is another river which has been improved in a similar manner at a cost of £1,100. Over 2,000 acres of land and bog were drained thereby. The Yellow river, which affects several of the Board's estates, was drained and improved at a cost of £1,500; the Coosheen river at a cost of £900, and the Glorre river at a cost of over £3,000. The last Annual Report shows that the Board made a large expenditure in drainage. They have on the estates in hands expended £206,510 up to the 31st March last in land improvements. Of this expenditure £40,397 was on main drainage of the character I have described; £76,779 was in buildings, and £70,297 in road making, fencing, and other estate improvements.

3374. **Sir ANSTONY MACDONAGH.**—Was any portion of that recovered under the purchase annuities?—Yes; it was largely covered by the revenue derived from the estates while in hands. Only a very small proportion was charged to the tenants on purchase.

3375. Will you kindly develop that—how was it recovered whilst the estates were in hands?—Perhaps I will illustrate it best on the Dillon estate. The Dillon estate was between four and five years in hands.

3376. It is to some extent in hands still?—To a very small extent, and mostly town tenants. During that time the Board required the tenants to pay for the first five years the full rent, and after that the rent less a temporary abatement of 6s. 8d. in the pound. That means, less the interest—which they paid on the purchase money of the estate to the Land Commission—at the rate of 2½ per cent., was available as a set-off against the cost of these improvements.

3377. I don't quite follow that. Do you mean that it would have been available if the rent had been abated and the interest had been charged?—No; what I mean was illustrated a day or two ago when I stated that the rent of the Dillon estate was £20,000 a year in round figures. The interest on the purchase money at 2½ per cent. was £3,250, and that you had the difference between the two—£16,750—to expend on the estate, less cost of collection and bad debts.

3378. The £16,750 might then be regarded as net rental from the estate?—No; it was the surplus you had in hand after deducting the interest you had to pay to the Land Commission for the £200,000 purchase money of the estate—the difference between that and the revenue.

3379. That is what I say. On purchasing the estate you did not levy from the tenants only the interest which you paid for the purchase money. You did not do that, but you continued to levy the rent?—And expended it on the estate.

3380. And expended it on the estate. But that is not recovering the interest of the money which you expended?—That is the reason why I said it was covered, not recovered; that the expenditure on these estates was covered largely by the revenue got in from the estates while they were in hands; and that is one of the reasons, in fact the main reason, why the Board's loss in the treatment of these estates has been so very little.

To put it quite shortly, they have paid in round figures nearly a quarter of a million of money (I like talking in millions, as it sounds like real business in these matters) in the improvement of these estates, and they have re-sold them at a net loss of £29,000, although they have charged the tenants very little more than the first cost of the estates, and they never have charged any tenant more than the first cost for his holding, if sold to him in the unimproved condition.

3381. The process you have just explained has not been clearly understood in the country; you have been blamed for delay in reselling the estates, but as a matter of fact that delay was essential to place you in a position to do what you have just described?—And besides, we have been enabled to effect radical improvements which could not be done in a hurry, the poorest of the tenants got most of the outlay in wages, and something like £200,000 was paid away for unskilled labour. The expenditure on unskilled

labour on the Dillon estate was over £60,000 in solid cash, and that must have had a considerable effect on the circumstances of the people.

3382. **Mr. O'KELLY.**—Have you ever been estimated in connection with the Dillon estate?—No; they understood us so well there that they allow us to do exactly as we wish.

3383. **Sir JOHN COLONY.**—With regard to estates in hands, during the interval between the purchase of the estate and the period of your handing it over to the tenants, that period gives you the revenue you expend in improvement?—It does, Sir John; but at present there is too long an interval between the agreement for the purchasing and the vesting. This is not over now, and perhaps I am labouring it too much in regard referring to it, but it is a great difficulty in the Board's work that they cannot get on with any re-arrangement of their estates till the Board are legal owners of the estate, and it is obviously most unsatisfactory to have these poor estates in hands and oblige the tenants to pay rents before proceeding with the settlement of the estate.

3384. But having explained that map and the other map and referring to your paragraph in which you say that the tenants whose holdings are within the area have had considerable improvements effected on them, can you give me the approximate number of tenants, or rather perhaps the number of holdings in each of the areas of the Dalgan river, and so on?—I don't want it now, but will you hand it in, the number of holdings in these areas included in the drainage scheme that are within it, which therefore presumably have benefited?—I have a schedule carefully compiled, showing the area drained of each of the townlands corresponding with the line colour, and I will hand it in.

3385. **Mr. BRYAN.**—Have you recovered, in the form of annuities, that expenditure on the drainage?—It was recovered in this way. This Lang River affects a number of estates, the De Freyne, the Murphy, and the Dillon, and others, and the cost was apportioned to those estates, and charged against them to the extent to which they were improved.

3386. And you added that and put it towards the annuities?—The deficiency in connection with the Board's work on that scheme, which cost something like £11,000, has been only £200, or about that amount.

3387. It is made an addition to the annuities?—It is charged against the estate, and mainly covered by revenue.

3388. **Mr. KAVANAGH.**—So that you have actually been at no loss by this big river drainage?—No; in the big works the Board have been practically at no loss. It is only when you come to the small isolated estates that we have a great loss. The outlay on drainage is thoroughly productive, and the tenants are quite satisfied, particularly those whose holdings could not be drained before the main drainage was carried out. When the main watercourse of the district and the tributaries flowing into it were improved it gave the owner of each separate holding an opportunity which he never had before to improve that portion of his land which was previously either swamps or so wet that it could not be cultivated or substantially improved.

3389. **Sir JOHN COLONY.**—Under the present system the work having been carried out, who is now responsible for maintaining it?—Nobody. That is a serious defect of the system, but I am hoping that the Arterial Drainage Commission that has been sitting for some time will offer some practical suggestions for the maintenance of the principal watercourses throughout the country. If they don't it will be very disappointing.

3390. And a probable loss of State money?—Well I have views on that.

3391. **Mr. KAVANAGH.**—You say there has been no loss on it?—Not in dealing with this work, with this particular work.

3392. All the drainage money has been got back?—Not all. In this particular case practically all. In some other cases where the Board were not owners of many of the estates along the improved rivers they were unable to get it back; but they have improved those estates although they are not the owners, but they are all in the congested area.

3393. **The CHAIRMAN.**—Is there any other point that you have not dealt with already?—Referring to the entire of the congested districts, and having re-

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gard to the limited area of untenanted land available, it is my opinion that much more good can be effected through agricultural development than through migration. I think it necessary to emphasize the great necessity of having some scheme of agricultural development of a character that will be in close touch with the people and have some vitality in it other than that which is now called agricultural development, and administered through the County Councils under the direction of the Department of Agriculture. I do not believe that any schemes suitable for the congested districts will be administered efficiently through the County Councils without making special arrangements for the working of them. These poor districts have not sufficient representation on the County Councils, especially the remote districts. They have not, as a rule, as efficient a representative and that representative does not find it convenient to attend all the meetings of the Council. When a county rate is levied it brings in a very small revenue from the congested districts because of their low valuation; and when the county authorities—Mr. O'Kelly will correct me if I am wrong, an inaccurate statement—consider a scheme in the interests of the county generally they will not give the special assistance to the poorer districts which they require, as the amount of revenue which these districts contribute is less than the better districts.

3384. Mr. O'Kelly.—Has that principle obtained among the recognized counties, that is to say giving the congested districts the amount of money they raise themselves plus the amount contributed by the Department?—What I say is the County Councils have not made.

3385. The County Councils have nothing to do with it; it is the County Committee established. The members of the County Council and the members of the county committee are not at all identical. Is it not a fact that not one of the County Councils in the northern division of Mayo is a member of the county committee? Is it not the fact that the County Councils and also the local District Councils select the most efficient men, and those who it appears will be able to give a good attendance, so that in that respect the people in the congested areas are not one bit worse treated than the people in the uncharted areas?—You say that the County Councils permit the District Councils.

3386. They invite them. That is the principle we have been acting on in the County Mayo?—The County Council invite the District Councils to nominate persons to serve on the County Committee. Then how can you say the County Councils have nothing to do with the matter?

Mr. O'Kelly.—You say these congested districts generally have County Commissioners who are not efficient on these county committees, and they cannot give constant attendance. I correct you by saying that the County Commissioners are not, in any case, members, but that the District Council are allowed by the County Council to nominate any people in the parish. Generally the clergyman is nominated.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is not limited to their own members?

3387. Mr. O'Kelly.—We allow a certain number to each district. The District Council is allowed to nominate the representative of the district upon the county committee, and these are selected who are, in the first place, capable, and in the second place promise to give good attendance?—There is nothing in my statement antagonistic to what you say. The County Councils ratify the selection; consequently the County Councils make themselves responsible for the appointment, and they do an even more important thing—they supply the money. There would not be much use in appointing a committee unless you provided them with the necessary means to promote their schemes.

3388. Don't you stand subject to correction on this particular statement that the congested districts are usually represented by County Commissioners who are not efficient, and are usually represented by men who cannot give a constant attendance?—That is one of the reasons they are not efficient.

3389. I correct you by saying that you have no County Commissioners on the county committees, for congested districts, but you have men who are selected because of their efficiency, and have promised to give a good attendance?—My point is this, that the congested districts of a county, the poorer districts of a

county, require special and extra aid in any development schemes. To put it shortly, suppose there is one uniform scheme applying to the whole of the County of Mayo it will be taken up by the good districts and probably be a great success in them, while it probably will be a complete failure in the poorer and more or less congested districts because the amount of aid given is not sufficient to give the scheme a fair start.

3390. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is this what you mean in your opinion the congested districts require more expert treatment; more differential treatment; more detailed treatment; more sympathetic treatment; and more expenditure than any system of administration under the Agricultural Department methods and County Council Committees could supply?—I accept that summary in toto.

3401. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You don't think the County Committee have any right to give special treatment to special districts. It is a matter for the whole county. They are appointed by the County Council practically and they are representatives of the County Council. But they can only treat the county as a whole; they cannot treat districts differently, one from the other?—That is precisely my point.

3402. They cannot do so?—No, they cannot.

3403. Then there is no use blaming them?—I am not blaming anyone. I am only trying to point out that that is a difficulty in the way of an effective scheme of agricultural development suitable for the congested districts being administered by County Committees which do not get a special grant in aid of congested districts. The Department of Agriculture tell me all their schemes must be administered through the county committee, for that procedure is the foundation of the Department's constitution. I want to impress the Commission with my view that if the Department's procedure be adhered to, the congested districts will not be developed for the reasons just given, and that it will be necessary for the Department of Agriculture, the Congested Districts Board, or some such public body, charged with the development and improvement of these poor districts, to have the means and powers to deal with their requirements after the manner which Sir Anthony so clearly and fully summarised just now.

3404. Mr. O'KELLY.—In conjunction with the County Council that provides the county rate?—Most certainly. Get every man to help; and the County Council will be very glad to help in the administration if they don't have to pay for the special aid given to the congested districts.

3405. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Might I add to the five requirements I have mentioned more impartial treatment?—I assume that always. If our administrators do not become impartial and large-minded they will never do much good, and will probably occupy most of their time in finding fault with one another and with the Government. We waste a lot of our time doing that.

3406. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Of course the body to have this administration will be the Congested Districts Board?—If you ask me I am sure you expect an answer from me to be in the affirmative. I now pass to the last page of my Memorandum, and I think that I have already discussed these things.

3407. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—We heard from the Secretary to the Congested Districts Board a great deal about the delay in vesting estates in the Board by the Estates Commissioners. We have heard you on that subject. Please tell us what estates were vested in 1904, and what in 1905, and what up to March of this year?—The solicitor is handing in a list. The best answer I can give is that out of all estates purchased through the Estates Commissioners up to March last only twelve were then vested the gross purchase price of which was £9,000 odd, but since then more satisfactory progress has been made through the intervention of the Executive Government.—Sir Anthony, mainly, I should think—in fact quite satisfactory progress has been recently made.

3408. Does it come to this, that of all the estates purchased under the Act of 1903 only something like over £9,000 worth of property was vested last March?—Yes; that is £9,000 worth bought through the Estates Commissioners. We did buy other estates through the Land Judge's Court that we were able to deal with.

3409. Is this the conclusion, that only on £9,000 worth of such property has the Board, up to the present, been enabled to proceed with its ameliorating

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work?—That is so. They have carried out improvements, but they have not been able to alter holdings or parcel out land among the holders.

3410. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You speak here about unfair public criticism?—I am not going to pursue that further. I say the criticisms in Parliament were quite fair.

3411. Will this document be included in the official report?—I should think so.

3412. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Would not you substitute mention for unfair?—I can't withdraw anything stated in this. I can explain it.

3413. Mr. O'KEEFE.—I suppose you respect the views and opinions of those who have subjected you to unfair criticism?—Yes; if the criticism be based upon correct information.

3414. In any case you respect the views of those who have made the criticism?—I am one of those people who can respect any man who gives his opinion honestly no matter how it compares with mine.

3415. You would be anxious that your Board should stand well with the public?—Yes; but I would like to see the Board act quite regardless of public clamour. I think by acting in that way they will serve the public much better.

3416. I understood you to say it would facilitate you very much if you had popular opinion with you in all your enterprises?—Yes; but the way I hope to get that public support I desire is by doing the right thing.

3417. But you say you have been subjected to unfair criticism by parties who did not understand the Board's reasons for delay?—Yes.

3418. Have you, in particular times, and in any particular way, conveyed to those parties whose good will I assume you would wish to have the reasons for the delay; have you enlightened them on the subject?—No, when my critic proceeds to find fault without seeking correct information I would not go following him to inform him on the subject. I would not think he was worth it. When a critic gets correct information by all means let him express any opinion he likes.

3419. Suppose you thought it would assist your Board in clearing up misunderstandings don't you think it would be well to communicate with those whose views you respect pointing out your views?—I do not think so, but if such a person asked for information I am always ready to give it.

3420. Would it not assist the Board very much if, when statements were made criticising the Board, based upon insufficient information, criticism of some of the essentials, you would correct these mistaken views?—I would be all any time employed in that way if I adopted that practice.

Mr. O'KEEFE.—That is the attitude that has contributed very much to hamper the Board in parts of the country.

3421. The CHAIRMAN.—I think we have now dealt with almost everything?—Yes. The only thing I would ask you to allow me to do is to read out the recommendations in the first page of my Memorandum which I think necessary for the development of the congested districts no matter what department has charge of them.

3422. You are going to put the whole Memorandum in and your suggestions will appear. I want to ask you, now that you have got to the end of your evidence, one question on a subject of considerable importance. You believe the solution of this question, speaking generally, is the enlargement of holdings and the migration where possible of the surplus population. You believe in enlarging when you get power to enlarge by migrating as far as possible people to other lands. The whole thing surely depends upon how far those people retain the holding in their own hands. Do you see any indication—how that these people are becoming proprietors—that they will sub-divide less than they used to do?—There is very little tendency to sub-divide on economic holdings, a holding say of £10 or thereabouts, but in very poor districts, especially where the people live mainly on fishing, there is a very strong tendency to sub-divide, and I think the reason is obvious. A fisherman, living on a £2 holding, finds he can get little from his holding towards the support of his family and he has to look mainly to the sea for his living. His son often to settle down as a fisherman, and live near his father, rather than emigrate, if he gets half the holding, and the father, knowing that they must get their living from fishing,

will sub-divide the holding if allowed, and that will continue if there is not some kind of Government supervision to prevent it. In the case of holdings of a more sufficient size to support a family I do not find any tendency to sub-divide. But in backward districts for the same reason as in the maritime and fishing districts, where the holdings are wretchedly small, and the people have to go as migratory labourers to England or Scotland for their living, there again they will sub-divide. They would sub-divide a £2 holding into four parts if allowed. They will have a place for a little cottage where they can raise a family cheaply, especially if near a turf bog. The wife and children live in the cottage cheaply; they have turf—fuel, at hand, get practically for nothing by the labour of the family in summer, and they will have a potato patch. The man, the head of the family, has to look for the means of supporting the family to England, where he spends about nine or ten months of the year.

3423. You say you think there ought to be some means of preventing sub-division in those districts where you say it exists?—Yes.

3424. How do you think it would be checked?—My suggestion is that as the Constabulary are obliged every year to visit each household in connection with the preparation of the agricultural statistics, when they are going round preparing these they could always report when there is a second house put up, or about to be put up. The police could also have instructions that, whenever on their ordinary patrols, they see a new house being put up, they should make inquiries to ascertain if its purpose was for sub-division, and if the people knew that there was supervision they would not attempt sub-division at all. It is only when there is no supervision it will go on.

3425. Even if you knew it was going on, even if the other house going up may mean a sub-division, how are you to stop it?—It is a breach of the conditions under which the purchase price of the holding was advanced, and a man can be sold out if he sub-divides.

3426. He may not sell; surely it is a question of friendly arrangement with his own son?—Where he sub-divides the holding unless he has paid up the purchase money—

3427. Mr. STURTELL.—If he redeems it?—If he redeems it he can do what he likes with it.

3428. The CHAIRMAN.—Even before he has paid up how are you to prevent in effect two people from living on a holding which you have calculated will only support one; what is to prevent them from making an arrangement by which the man's son who lives next door may share the place?—You cannot prevent him. When the people become more educated and have a higher standard of living before them they would not settle down under such unfavourable conditions, and that alone may deter them. When the young people are willing to remain in these small places, what more natural thing in the world than that a father who has a strong affection for his son would like to keep him by his side instead of allowing him to emigrate. It is the most natural thing in the world. Many of us would do it if circumstanced in the same way.

3429. Sir ANTHONY MACDONELL.—It is not a desirable thing from the economic point of view?—It is not.

3430. How would you prevent it?—By compulsion and education.

3431. How could you apply the compulsion?—That if any advance be made in respect of the holding on which the second building is going up it is a breach of the conditions on which the advance is made, and you can dispossess him.

3432. But the supposition is that the son marries, and immediately the cowhouse, let us say, which you have erected for the father is turned into a living house for the son. There is no formal document such as a deed of sale, which if it was executed would come to the notice of the authorities when it came to be registered. There is no question of registration of father and son; certain fields are given over by the father to the son by mutual arrangement of which nobody knows. How are you to prevent an arrangement of that sort?—You cannot prevent that. That is not sub-division.

3433. It is practically sub-division?—There is only one legal owner. You might as well say a father could not allow his son to get married in the house, and live there.

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3433. Practically the effect of that is sub-division, and I want to see if there is any possibility of preventing that?—I don't see how you could prevent that.

3434. We were talking just now of the careful and detailed supervision which you ought to exercise over the congested districts; would it not be possible in such a case as that if you had sufficient means, sufficient money, to provide a holding for the son who marries?—If you had the land you could provide a holding for a son, but eventually the old people should get some of the family settled on their holdings.

3435. It is not an impossible problem to solve?—No.

3436. Then, if it is not an impossible problem to solve would you turn your attention to it to see how it can be done?—Yes.

3437. We want to know how you would propose to do the right thing if you had all the means you desire; how you would carry it through and prevent this sub-division, which is perfectly certain, if continued, to bring the people back to the stage from which you are rescuing them?—The case you put very rarely happens. It only happens in the case of what they call a "runaway match" in the West of Ireland, that is, when a young couple marry without the consent of their parents and that the latter do not make any settlement for them.

3438. It would not happen in that case at all?—If they run away?—I will explain to you what I mean. No young girl will marry a man, at least with the consent of her parents, unless he is getting a legal interest in the holding of her prospective father-in-law. She would not bring her fortune and agree to come into the out-house that we build and be there on sufferance, with the daily prospect of falling out with her mother-in-law and being asked to leave. She would not come there unless she got some hold on the place; and the usual arrangement is when the son of the tenant or tenant purchaser is about to get married the father agrees to give the son two-thirds of the holding on his marriage, retaining one-third for his own life. That is the usual arrangement in 80 per cent. of the cases, and it is quite satisfactory. The old man and the remnant of his family will continue in occupation of the whole or part of his own house and retain one-third of the land for his life, and the whole holding will come to the young man on the death of the father.

3439. The father may live for 30 or 40 years. In the meantime you have got two families during that period living on the holding that is only sufficient for one?—The other members of the family gradually leave the holding and settle elsewhere or emigrate.

3440. You will reduce the standard of comfort. You will be undoing you have the work already done. What is the best means to adopt to avoid the undoing of that work?—I think the arrangement is the most satisfactory one that can be made, that the old people will remain living on the holding with the young people, who will care them when they get too feeble to work on the land, as frequently happens, while the other members of the family who don't by marriage get other holdings have to emigrate.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That is practically showing up the sponge.

3441. The CHAIRMAN.—If you admit that it seems to me you must allow for the economic standard in the first instance being put at a higher level?—The old people require very little land, for by the time they get their children settled at home or abroad, they are as a rule not able to work much on the land.

3442. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are the old people useful on the land?—Yes. They look after the soil, weed the crops, nurse the babies, and make themselves generally useful.

3443. On the estates sold by the Congested Districts Board has there been much sub-division among the purchasers?—None.

3444. Is overt sub-division against their agreement?—Yes, but the suggestion is that they could pay the money down and then do what they liked with the holding, and so they can.

3445. Is there greater danger to the tenant purchaser and to the public interest from the fact that the tenant purchaser may mortgage his purchase to the money lender?—One hears a great deal about that, but I don't find a disposition amongst the people to mortgage their holdings.

3446. Mr. BAYNE.—You said yesterday there was hardly a case of your buying an estate without arrears?—That is so.

3447. If there have always been arrears in the past won't there be arrears again if there are bad seasons?—No.

3448. Why not?—Because the Government will insist on the punctual payment of the half-yearly annuities. The landlord nearly always allowed a half-year's, what they called the hanging gale, and in many cases a year's rent, to remain over on most estates.

3449. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is it the idea that pending the payment of instalments there should be supervision by some public authority. There is supervision during repayment; and it then becomes a question of the proper policy to pursue when the people have paid back their annuities to the State and become real owners of their holdings?—I always thought it was a mistake selling holdings to the tenant purchasers without the State retaining the right in perpetuity to prevent sub-division.

3450. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Why was not that preserved in the original Land Purchase Bill; whose fault was it that that most salutary provision was rejected?—Perhaps you can answer that, Mr. O'Kelly.

3451. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You think that there should be perpetual provision to prevent sub-division?—I do, and recommended it years ago.

3452. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would you call the case Sir Anthony put to you sub-division?—No. Sir Anthony differs from me; I think it a necessary arrangement, because when the old people get feeble they should have some member of the family living with them.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It is not sub-division ratified by legal document, but in effect it is, because it brings in two families on a holding which as *Apprentice* is only fit for one.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—Eventually the young man will fall in for the whole thing.

3453. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—No way, and the standard of comfort is then reduced. The young man may have a son before the old man dies who will get married, and you may have the same process repeated?—Would it not alter your view when I assure you that the old man does not usually get his son married until he feels he is no longer able to work the land.

3454. Mr. BAYNE.—Do you mean these remarks to apply to the migratory districts as well as to the fixity districts?—Yes.

3455. How can you prevent it in these cases?—You cannot prevent it as the law now stands. You have no power if a tenant-purchaser pays up what is due on his place. You could prevent it if the occupier of the holdings holds under judicial tenure. It is contrary to the conditions of a judicial tenure to sub-divide his holding, or if he buys his holding by an advance by the State it is contrary to the conditions under which the advance is made to sub-divide his holding. If a man has bought his holding for, say, £50, and he pays the Government the £50, he could make ribbons of it as the law stands; in the Bill of 1893 it was proposed that the holdings should be held subject to a small annual payment in perpetuity to the State, so as to give power to prevent sub-division, but some section of our wise legislators decided the holdings should be sold freed from all charges and burdens.

3456. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I suppose you would not like to see these purchasers subject to mortgages to money-lenders?—I would not.

3457. To prevent that unfavourable result would you go so far as to say that it should be enacted that debts should not be recoverable against the farms that are purchased under the Land Purchase Acts?—I would go that far, but it should be from a future date and should not apply to existing debts.

3458. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That was substantially proposed in the Bill of 1893 and thrown out.

3459. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Then they should get no credit at all?—Yes. A man will get credit on his character and visible means irrespective of the value of his holding; and the successful merchant is able to take the measure of his debts pretty accurately, and he cannot do a large business without trusting to the people to act honestly.

3460. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Do you not regard this question of supervision as a most vitally important one for the future of Ireland?—I do.

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3461. And you regard it of vital importance, not from the fact of the artificial division of the boundaries of lands and of the holdings, but from the fact that the sub-division of a holding means that more people are living upon it than there should be?—Yes; when it reaches that stage then it is objectionable.

3462. When you were discussing the ordinary average arrangement on the occasion of these marriages it appears to me you must have been speaking only of the congested districts in Connanght?—I meant the congested districts generally.

3463. Are you aware that the process which you described as prevailing in Connanght is the exact converse of the arrangement existing and carried on in the South?—No.

Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—In order that you may understand my question I must tell you what that process is. There is a marriage going to take place, and as far as my knowledge goes the universal arrangement is this. The father agrees and the girl brings something in the shape of money, cattle, or it may be any little thing. The marriage is arranged on that basis, on the girl's side. The father then agrees, as part of the bargain, to assign the land to the son.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—The whole of it?

3464. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—He assigns the whole holding to his son, reserving to himself and his wife whatever may be agreed on between the parties, generally the use of the living room or some accommodation, not necessarily the whole house, in some cases the grass of a cow—some right or lien upon the land, as the use and application of the land as part and parcel of the bargain?—That is identical with the Western settlement.

3465. I understood it was a question of two-thirds?—What I said was that the usual arrangement was that the tenant of the holding stipulates to retain one-third. That is not always the case. Sometimes it is an acre of land, sometimes the grass of a cow, and sometimes half an acre.

3466. My point is important because the difference is great. I want to show you subdivisions under conditions under which the father assigns to the son the whole thing, preserving for himself and his wife various reservations, all affecting the working of the land. As a rule those arrangements are committed to writing, and very often there are legal documents drawn by a solicitor, and taking my illustration of the existing state of things in Kerry, will you admit that that is a bad thing in the interests of the people, a bad system, and if it were possible it ought to be stopped?—It is the only possible system I see, considering they have no spare money on which the old people could live if they left the holding.

3467. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—I understood you to say there was another possible system, provided you could get the land for the young couple?—I don't agree, as I now understand your point, for when the old people get their son married into the holding it is at a time when they feel they are unable to work the holding advantageously.

3468. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—I would like to follow this a little bit further. I had got to the point of explaining to you the custom in the South?—It is in the West identical with what you were describing.

3469. Taking a holding of £10 or under, do you think the fact of practically two families living on this holding only fit for one makes it unworkable?—The old people are generally advanced in years and getting feeble when this arrangement is made.

3470. I am going on the principle and the fact that it is against the common interests of the country and of the people themselves that two families should be interested in and have a claim on and work separately an economic holding which is only fit for one family?—It is not that detrimental?—I don't see any other way out of it in the absence of money. You might give up your property to a member of your family subject to an annual charge or live on your money. They cannot do either.

3471. If it be admitted that that is not a good system in the interests of the people themselves and of the country generally, and these documents are committed to paper and very often stamped and signed as legal documents, don't you think it would be some mitigation of the danger if the law pronounced these documents to be invalid in the case of the tenant purchaser? I put the plain question, do you or do you not think that it would be a check upon this system if that was the

law?—It would be a very unjust law in my opinion, and act to the detriment of these poor people.

3472. When the Congested Districts Board buy a property they buy everything, don't they?—We always try to. In a few instances the sporting rights have been reserved.

3473. Take the cases in which the sporting rights passed to you: that was the case on the Dillon estate?—It was.

3474. Was it the case on the Dillon estate that the tenants were in the main feudal tenants?—As a matter of fact they were not. Two-thirds of them were yearly tenants who had their rents voluntarily reduced, but you may call them for your purposes feudal tenants.

3475. Were the sporting rights reserved in the sale of Lord Dillon's estate legally and definitely reserved to the landlord?—They were.

3476. Then, when they bought this property, the Congested Districts Board became owners of the sporting rights?—Yes.

3477. That was an appreciable source of income, was not it?—No.

3478. Did you regard it when you bought it as an appreciable business source of income?—No.

3479. It appears from a Memorandum handed in by Mr. Mitchell that you got the offer of £11,000 for the sale of the house and sporting rights?—The sporting rights were not an appreciable item of value when the Board bought the estate, mainly for the reason that the sporting rights had not been properly preserved, and it was suggested to the tenants that if they were preserved all over the estate they would become a valuable asset. In that view I consent. I would not say they would become a very valuable asset, but that they could be an asset of substantial value.

The Board offered to sell the holdings to the tenants, including sporting rights, and that after the holdings were vested in the tenants, if they nominated trustees to represent them, the Board would convey to these trustees whatever sporting rights they had so reserved, so that the trustees could manage and preserve the game on the estate, and in that way insure it so that it might become eventually a valuable asset. Many of the tenants thought this a very good idea, and took it up quite cordially, but another view was then put before them, that it was an improper thing for the Board to attempt to have any burden upon the fee-simple of the holdings, that the tenants ought to be sold everything, and that they did not want to have Loughgilly house and demesne let to some person who would have gamekeepers all over the property, walking over the holdings at will, even though the tenants were to get the revenue from the sporting rights. The bulk of the tenants took the view that they wanted to have the holdings free from any burden, and the Board, after considering the matter fully, decided that the game could never be preserved nor the sporting on the estate made a valuable asset unless the people desired so themselves, consequently they gave away on the matter and sold the holdings without any reservation. Since then one section of the estate, the Knock section, on which there is a considerable area of bog, the tenants have actually let the sporting for £50 a year to a club.

3480. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—Do they preserve?—Every man is a gamekeeper. When people come to shoot some of the tenants act as beaters and enjoy the sport.

Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—That is the point I want to get out: is there any tendency on the part of other tenants to see the advantages of that and to combine, too?—The Board have tried that in every case where there was any reason to hope that the sporting rights could be made a substantial asset; they have made that offer to the tenants, but in only a few cases have all the tenants agreed to sign this agreement.

3481. I would like to know do the Board in their arrangements and procedure recognise the importance, not in reference to landlord and tenant or any special class, but generally of game and forestry as a great national Irish asset?—They do; but the game is not so a rule of much value on the congested and small estates. There can be no game save on the Dillon and a few other estates, where there are large tracts of bog or mountain. You cannot have game where you have a dense population, with people and dogs frequently going all over the moors.

3431. With regard to fishing, have you in the case of any of the purchased properties salmon and trout fisheries let for an appreciable amount?—Yes. We got £130 a year for one letting and £120 a year for another.

3432. Has the process been completed in those cases; have the properties been conveyed to the tenants?—Not these valuable fishery rights or sporting rights. The Board bought the estate as a whole, and in fixing the price at which it would re-sell to the tenants it took into account the value of those game and sporting rights they were to retain, and in that way separated the value of the sporting rights from the land.

3433. Am I right in saying wherever the conditions of the property offer a reasonable probability of its being an important asset, the game or the fishery rights, the Board in that case reserve it with a view to making what they can out of it, as an assistance to the funds placed at their disposal by the public?—As regards the game they do not usually reserve it, but they have a form of agreement prepared, and invite and recommend the tenants to join together and buy their holdings with this reservation from the Board. If the tenants agree to do that the Board subsequently convey the game rights to trustees appointed by the tenants. If the tenants say, "No, we will have our holdings as they are," the Board let them have them.

3434. There were on the Dillon estate plantations?—A few.

3435. Those were not conveyed to the tenants?—No. They are still in the Board's hands.

3436. Plantations are resorts for signature game?—Yes.

3437. What is the position of the plantations at this moment; what is the Board doing?—We are carefully looking after them. We have a steam engine and a saw mill cutting up the surplus timber, and are making all the profit we can out of it.

3438. About game?—There is very little game in these woods on the Dillon estate.

3439. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You say that the Board have several very valuable fisheries?—A few; I named two.

3440. They let for considerable sums of money; and Sir John asked you whether the proceeds of those fisheries are an asset in maintenance of the funds placed at your disposal by the Exchequer, or, as I understood, the income from those fisheries is received by you on behalf of the tenants of the estate?—No; it is separated from the tenants altogether. The estate was bought as a whole.

3441. What will happen in regard to these fisheries when the tenants are vested with the proprietary rights in the holdings?—They will remain as they are now having sporting rights over their holdings reserved.

3442. In the possession of the Board?—Or sold by the Board to a sporting tenant. The tenants will benefit by the arrangement, because some of them will be employed as gillies, and others will be paid a price per head for birds shot on the lands.

3443. You recognize that the sporting rights and fishery rights need not necessarily be sold to the tenants?—No. In those cases where they have a substantial value the tenants are in agreement with what the Board have done.

3444. That is to say, the tenants do not claim?—No, they do not claim, and they are as a rule most courteous to the persons renting the sporting rights.

3445. If you don't sell those sporting and fishery rights the solution is you will keep them as long as the Board is in existence, and after that it will be made over to some other Government department?—I should think that what will happen is that the Board will sell to some sporting tenant, and in settling the terms of agreement will be very careful to have the fullest regard to the interest of the agricultural tenants.

3446. You only sell the sporting rights on an estate to the tenants when the sporting rights are not worth much?—Only when they are of no substantial value.

3447. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—In estimating the total cost of dealing with estates by the Board do you agree that the salaries and expenses paid by the Board so far as regards that portion of its work must be included?—Not in the 12 per cent.

3448. But in considering the total cost of dealing with estates by the Board must not the salaries and other expenses of the Board, so far as that part of its

work goes, be included in the estimate?—They ought to be.

3449. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is it according to the law of Ireland that the sporting rights and the occupation of land are separable?—Yes. That is to say, an owner can sell the fee-simple of his land and can reserve the sporting rights.

3450. Mr. O'CONNOR.—You said that in the beginning on Lord Dillon's estate the people were reconciled to your selling the sporting rights with Loughlyn House?—Yes; when they were informed that the revenue from the sporting would be handed over to trustees appointed by them to carry out any useful work which they might desire on their year to year.

3451. And a short time afterwards their attitude changed?—Yes.

3452. Was that change of attitude hastened by an expression of opinion by Mr. Monaghan O'Brien?—I should think so.

3453. What did he say?—Substantially he pointed out it was a very objectionable arrangement to make this reservation. Mr. Monaghan O'Brien had a very strong objection to it on the grounds that if a sporting tenant got into Loughlyn House he might across the tenants a great deal in connection with the preservation of the game on the estate, and that they would not like to see men walking over their small holdings and perhaps knocking down the fences and not putting them up, and having their hoppers and dogs going over them at will, the same as if they were monarchs of all they surveyed.

3454. So Mr. Monaghan O'Brien, and no other person, is responsible for the change of view?—A local politician had a great deal to do with it. He was the instigator of the difficulties that arose, and he endeavoured to rent the sporting rights from some of the tenants for himself.

3455. In any case he found himself in agreement with Mr. Monaghan O'Brien?—On different grounds.

3456. Any way they arrived at the same result?—I am not objecting to Mr. Monaghan O'Brien's view. I think there is a great deal to be said for it.

3457. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you quite appreciate what Sir FRANCIS MOWATT asked you with regard to the allowance made for salaries?

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I was not asking with reference to the 12 per cent. at all. I only want to have it on record that the purchase of these estates is of course attended with additional expense of the payment of the staff?—Yes; I have a staff of inspectors, engineers and surveyors, who work under me. They are all necessary.

3458. The CHAIRMAN.—I think what Sir FRANCIS MOWATT means is this: when you speak of £11,000 for instance being available for improvement on the Dillon estate do you deduct from that the cost of the staff engaged in improvement on that estate?

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That was not what I wanted. It was simpler than that?—The salaries and expenses of surveyors and clerks of works are charged to the estates. The salaries and expenses of the remainder of the outdoor staff are charged to administration and not debited to the estates.

3459. That is an item which, in your annual budget, you make up, but my object in asking was, when the total expenditure on the improvement of the estates has to be estimated we must include in that the cost of the Board?—Of the necessary staff in connection with its re-arrangement. That is a very heavy item. The Secretary will give you the particulars.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That question must be taken in connection with this one: what salaries are charged and what are not?

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I particularly said that portion of the Board's work and only that.

3460. The CHAIRMAN.—You understand that the salaries and administrative expenses in connection with the Corporation Districts Board work amount to £31,000 a year?—Yes. The staff and administration. The Secretary can give you an estimate of the proportion chargeable to estates.

3461. The cost of collecting rents, debts, and all the work, everything of that kind; you say that off the amount of income which the Board has in its possession; that is practically the first charge upon the income of the Board?

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Doran.

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Dillon.

3514. That is deducted first; then you have the surplus revenue of an estate like Lord Dillon's estate to spend upon improvements plus the £11,000 which we were told about the other day. Is it fair, when you have already included the cost of the staff in the £51,000, to say that, as a matter of fact, you have not got £11,000 to spend upon the improvements on the Dillon estate because out of that £11,000 has to be deducted the cost of that portion which the staff engaged on estate work?—No. That is already included. I think you don't quite understand—

3515. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—What I have got in my mind is this. Eventually there will have to be taken a total account of this work, of the total cost of dealing with these estates. Part of that total cost is the cost of the establishment of the Congested Districts Board, or, as I explained, such part of that expense as is to be attributed to land purchase. And when you consider the whole problem, and what it is to cost you, you must include in it this item. That is not a criticism on the Board at all, but merely that we may understand the total cost.

3516. The CHAIRMAN.—Of course we could be told exactly what the cost of any department has been?—

Yes. The Secretary can give you all these particulars. The £11,000 is not the money which the Board have to expend. The estimated cost of the works this year is something over £108,000; but the £11,000 is the money they can lose out of their annual revenue after providing for other expenditure.

3517. That is what I meant. You have got £11,000 which you can lose on improving estates?—Yes.

3518. You have got £11,000, the surplus part of your fixed income, which you can spend on improving estates?—To meet the loss resulting from the improvement of estates. We might spend £800,000, and as the re-sale of the estates in their improved condition recovers £250,000, thus leaving £10,000 of a loss to meet, and the Board could meet that.

3519. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—All the surveyors are already charged to the estates?—What is done is this. The surveyors are charged to administrative expenses throughout the year, and then, because they are engaged from week to week on different estates, at the end of the year, the time given by each of my staff on each particular estate is ascertained and apportioned against each estate.

The Commission adjourned.

NINTH PUBLIC SITTING.

TUESDAY, 2ND OCTOBER, 1906,

AT 10.30 O'CLOCK, A.M.

At 35, Dawson-street, Dublin.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUDLEY, G.C.V.O. (Chairman); The Right Hon. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL, G.C.B.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLLIER, K.C.M.G.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

REV. DESIS O'HARA, F.R., Kiltinagh, examined.

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Rev. Desis
O'Hara, F.R.

3520. The CHAIRMAN.—Father O'HARA, I believe you have been a temporary member of the Board for some time?—Yes, I have been a member of the Board since 1895.

3521. And, therefore, you are intimately acquainted with its work?—Yes; I have lived all my life in what is now known as a congested district; and I have had ample opportunities of being intimately acquainted with those districts; I have lived in them as curate, as administrator, and as parish priest.

3522. You have prepared a scheme of evidence, which you were kind enough to give to the Commission. Perhaps it would be convenient to follow that scheme?—Very well, my lord. Well, it was in the year 1880, after the three preceding bad years had culminated in the almost total failure of the potato crop, in 1879, that I had clearly brought under my notice the wretched condition of the small farmers, who were trying to eke out a living under the most unfavourable conditions. In that year the distress was most acute, and the whole of the West was threatened with a renewal of the horrors of the famine years. But for the charitable funds that were started many of the people would undoubtedly have died of starvation in the parish. Most of the people were getting relief from those funds. In the good years the people were able to keep body and soul together, but they were always on the border line between bare existence and famine; and whenever the potato crop failed they were brought face to face with starvation. The land was bad, and the landlords as a class were heartless and unympathetic. I state this for the purpose of showing how I was acquainted so intimately with the congested districts.

3523. You say that it was in 1880, after the failure of the potato crop, that this state of things was first brought strongly to your mind. Do you think that anything could be done to prevent there being a recurrence of the potato failure. Do you imagine that work, such as the Congested Districts Board is doing, is likely to eradicate and prevent a recurrence of potato failures?—Well, nothing succeeds like success. I was one of the first people to recommend spraying, and I am glad to say that my parish was the first in Ireland where they took it up; and the people, who were at first inclined to laugh at it, are fully convinced that it is a remedy, a great preventive against the blight; and if the body, whoever it might be, that would have to look after the agricultural districts recommended it more strongly in the country, and looked a little earlier to it, I think a great deal might have been done in this way to prevent the blight.

3524. Of course, the improvement in agricultural methods, such as spraying, is really the work now of the new Department?—Yes.

3525. It is not the work of the Congested Districts Board?—No, not at present. It was not till some time after the years I refer to, 1879 and 1879, that spraying was in evidence at all.

3526. Is it your experience that the potato crop fails on all classes of land, or is the failure generally confined to the smaller holdings?—My experience is that it is the smallest holdings that suffer most—for this season, that the land is starved out, having been tilled for so long with such bad manure that the soil in which they sow has not the remaining power that the good land has. And at present, this year, the Commission will find that Cennought has suffered more from the blight than any other part of Ireland; I attribute it to the fact that the land sown by the people with potatoes is so bad and so worn out that it cannot resist, and has not the remaining power, the same as if they got some fresh land; and the people say that this year it was only on fresh land that they got good potatoes at all.

3527. The land is not allowed to lie fallow?—It is in many districts in roadside; and in our district the holdings are so small that they have year after year to sow the same soil, and then they have been trying to manure it with what they call black mud, that is, bog turned in to be sowed, and turned out again on the land, and having no substance and no nourishment, and instead of improving the land it is destroying it; the people being so poor that they had not the cattle to produce the manure, and without manure you cannot have good land, and without good land you cannot have good cattle.

3528. Mr. BRYCE.—And then there is no rotation?—No; only to this extent, that you have oats and potatoes, potatoes and oats.

3529. The CHAIRMAN.—And only those two crops?—Only those two crops as a rule.

3530. Mr. BRYCE.—No alternative of grass?—No; very slightly. In some places they are trying to do a little of late. The Board have been instructing them in that, and in some districts they have it.

3531. The CHAIRMAN.—But on holdings where they have sufficient land already, to break fresh land to give the tillage plots a chance, do you know cases where potato failure is unknown?—Well, I do not think it is altogether unknown, but it certainly is a great deal less on the good lands than on the bad lands. In the district that I am familiar with, Swinford, there are 3,000 holdings under £2 valuation, and there are 5,500 under £4 valuation, and the patches of these people are so small that they cannot do otherwise than they have been doing. Of course, it was a bad system of agriculture; it is not what could be approved of, but they had no more land, and they had to put down these two crops.

3532. Mr. BRYCE.—Now, do the poorer class of tenants, such as you have mentioned, with valuations under £3 and £4, go in for regular spraying of the potatoes?—Most regularly; so much so that it is the women who generally spray. The men are away in England, and the women have to spray; and since spraying became known, since they were satisfied that it is effective, they have been spraying in my district.

3533. And notwithstanding that those poor people spray regularly, their crop has proved worse than the

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crops of farmers of a better class, who did not spray any more than they did?—That is quite right.

3534. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Do they spray with machines, these poor people?—I am sorry to say that all do not spray with machines. Some of them do and some do not.

3535. Have you observed any difference between the crops of those who spray with machines and those who do not?—I have observed that those who spray are better off than those who do not spray at all, and that those who spray with machines are better off than those who spray with brooms.

3536. Is not it the case, as we have been told—at least I have seen it stated—that in order that spraying should be effective you must get at the under portion of the leaf?—That is true.

3537. And spraying with brooms, or any other means except with machines, does not enable you to get at the under portion of the leaf?—No.

3538. And that spraying is, so far, ineffective?—It is better than not spraying, that is all I can say, because it trickles down the stalk.

3539. Are you of opinion that spraying, if properly done, does adequately protect the crop, that is if sprayed effectively and a sufficient number of times?—I would not go to the full extent of saying that it is a complete preservative, but it certainly is to a large extent. I have that faith in it that I believe that if they sprayed rightly and a proper number of times they would have, as a rule, a fairly good crop, on good land.

3540. The CHAIRMAN.—On good land?—On good land.

3541. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Would you go so far as to advocate compulsory spraying?—I understand that when the phylloxera affected the vines in France compulsory spraying was enforced there—would you be disposed to advocate compulsory spraying in Ireland?—I think where people are satisfied that this ought to be done, and that that is the opinion of a body who are competent to judge, I think it is no grievance to make people do what they should do.

3542. Mr. BRYCE.—But then you have found—have you not—that compulsory powers are not effective in every case. The sanitary inspectors have had compulsory powers, but as Sir John Lubbock pointed out, in questioning Mr. Darran, they have not done their work, because it was impossible to get the people, who have no means, to make improvements, which, therefore, could not be carried out?—Well, I think if you appoint a proper body you will find that in a few years the sanitation will be greatly improved. I was in favour, myself, of having the police to ask. I do not like, as a rule, as things are at present, that they should be coming into contact with the people, but I believe that if the police were the sanitary authorities (and they have not very much to do), in a few years you would find that there would be a great improvement in that respect.

3543. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would you offer such a thing as compulsory inducement, not compulsion pure and simple?—Well, we have that, as my statement will show. We have, without compulsion, indeed people by one way or another to improve their houses, by giving them prizes.

The CHAIRMAN.—I think we can deal with that when we come to the subject of parish committees.

3544. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—With regard to spraying, do you not think, that in a wet season such as we have had, spraying is difficult?—Yes; and our people, it is well known, are very peculiar. It is of no use to go into the houses of their want of knowledge and education, but last year the crop was so good in all the districts that this year the poor people, not liking to go to the expense of spraying material, said to themselves, "It might be as well, this year, to let them take chance," and that, to a large extent, will account for the failure of the potato crop in the West this year—the good crop of last year.

3545. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You do not think it had anything to do with the seed?—It had nothing at all to do with the seed.

3546. You think it is the climate?—The climate alone.

3547. Are you aware that in the South, where we

have rotation of crops, blight comes too?—Yes; I have been told, and I am aware that it has the same effect, but not at all to the same extent.

3548. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you not think that a dry day is important for the process of spraying, so the spraying may be affected by the wet and the rain washes it away?—If it is sprayed immediately before rain the rain washes it away. If there is a fall of rain after a short interval it washes it away from the roots and the stem, and the drier the day is that it is put on the more effective it will be.

3549. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—With regard to what you have stated in respect to the wretched condition of the small farmers, can you give me an idea of what meaning is to be attached to the word "small" in the West of Ireland?—It means a man who cannot live on his holding under any conditions.

3550. No matter how well the holding might be worked?—No matter how well the holding might be worked.

3551. And, therefore, do you mean an uneconomic holding in the sense of a holding that a man having an average family cannot live and thrive with?—That is my definition of an uneconomic holding—when the holding is such that an industrious man with an average family cannot support his family of 10.

3552. Is the result of that condition to drive the holders of such small farms into relying upon potatoes?—They have nothing else to rely on; they are their whole support. It is a little changed for the last few years, but in the years I refer to, 1876 and 1879, I do not think that there were half-a-dozen families in the parish that ate meat once in a month out of 1,400 families.

3553. You are aware that that is not peculiar to Ireland, but applies to other parts of the United Kingdom?—I am aware that they have a change of wholesome food to keep body and soul together with, but salt and India meal alone without milk is not food, and I know that in 1879 in Ballaghadereen there were very few families that had more than India meal twice a day.

3554. Referring to what you were telling me about this condition of the small holding, do you mean that the necessities of the holding drove these families to rely on and to plant merely potatoes?—Yes.

3555. Do you also mean that it is a holding that cannot on that account keep a cow for milk?—No; most of these holdings that are called small could rear a cow, but the cow would be so bad that a goat would be just as good.

3556. And, therefore, an improvement in the condition of these small holders might be looked for if their land was better managed, and they got opportunities of learning, and were encouraged to learn how to farm small plots?—I hold that there are very few holdings on the Dillon Estate that might not become economic under proper treatment.

3557. Am I to understand that you are confirming your observations in the matter to the parish of Ballaghadereen?—What I have stated here, and the few other remarks I wish to make, refer to Ballaghadereen alone, but what I say would apply to the parish that I am in, because the holdings in the parish that I am in at present are smaller than most of those in the parish of Ballaghadereen.

3558. I want to ask you just this question. Do you think that some of the words you use to describe a particular class of Irishmen very strong?—Not one bit stronger than they deserve.

3559. Now that I have pointed out to you that it is a very strong statement as regards a class of Irishmen you do not wish to modify it?—Not in the least; because my experience in all my life is that I never knew a landlord to care very much how his tenants lived if he got his rent. Of course there are some landlords a little better than others. There are dozens, I do not want to put them all into the same class.

3560. But an Irishman's having land seems to have that effect?—I think it has.

3561. Ownership?—Ownership.

3562. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You have always been in the same district?—I have, in the same district; in the same union all my life.

3563. You are speaking more of the West?—Of the West of Ireland.

3564. **Sir ANTHONY MacDONNELL.**—Your remarks do not apply to landlords in general, but to your own particular observations—I have no acquaintance with landlords elsewhere, but I say that if in going round through Connemara you will find a landlord that did anything for his people I think the people would look surprised at your discovery.

3565. **Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.**—While you speak of the locality with which you are best acquainted, the Sarnford Union, and some parishes in particular, the remedy which you propose is one that would relieve congestion all through the western provinces—I believe what I say with regard to Sarnford would apply to all. I think I may say as one diocesan.

3566. In these notes you have offered to outline a scheme by which the evils of congestion would be remedied or removed over a very wide area in Connemara?—Yes.

3567. **Sir JOHN COLEMAN.**—Then, am I right in taking your view to be this, that the fact of ownership makes a man heartless and unsympathetic?—That is my view.

3568. That ownership in a moral sense is a bad thing?—Well, as it has worked out in Ireland at any rate.

3569. **Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.**—Perhaps when you say that ownership has worked out in that way the ownership to which you refer is dual ownership in land?—That is the only thing that I understood that he asked me. I mean landlordism—that the fact of a man becoming a landlord makes him heartless.

3570. You do not object to ownership when the ownership is vested in one person, whether landlord or tenant. The ownership you find fault with is the system of landlordism or dual ownership?—That is the only thing I find fault with.

3571. **Sir JOHN COLEMAN.**—You notice that they owe a large amount to shopkeepers and banks—these small tenants?—Yes.

3572. Now, tell me, are the shopkeepers largely in possession of spirit houses as well?—They are.

3573. Well, as it is the case that the facilities for borrowing and running into debt are very great?—Yes.

3574. Do you attribute that at all to the mixing up of the two things as having a moral effect on the financial condition of the people—the mixing up of the consumption of spirits and business?—I think it would be very desirable if they could be separated, and if a man having a licence was bound to have a separate house and no other business in the house.

3575. Is it your opinion that a considerable amount of money, in small sums of course, is wasted by those occupants of small holdings owing to the circumstance of being in the grip of the shopkeepers, who also supply them with liquor?—With regard to the liquor, with regard to the drink, I find that once a man becomes the owner of land he drinks far less and is far more careful about his money, to the Church and State, than before.

3576. That is your deliberate opinion?—It is my deliberate opinion that once a man becomes the owner of his land he becomes thrifty, and once he becomes thrifty it is very hard to get a shilling out of him.

3577. Now, if a tenant were in debt in the manner described, as we all know and as you have described, and he becomes an owner by the process of the Land Purchase Act and the action of the Congested Districts Act, and is put more or less on his legs by the Congested Districts Board, what happens to that debt?—Does he make a greater effort to get clear of the debt?—My statement here will show you, and I went over the ground very recently of a property that I bought when I was in Ballaghaderreen, and I found on speaking to people there, and shopkeepers and banks and priests and everybody will tell you that they have improved immensely since they became owners of the land, and I find from my own experience that they do not spend as much money in drink, because they live a little better and become more thrifty, and therefore they spend less in drink than before.

3578. My point is: do you think that they make a more strenuous effort to escape from the debt to the shopkeeper?—They never try to escape from a debt if they can pay it. It is quite true that they do not care very much about the debt to the landlord, but the debt to the shopkeeper they pay if they possibly can.

3579. A man is a tenant and in debt to a shopkeeper. By the operation of the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners applying the law

that man becomes a peasant proprietor. Well, now, do you find that his first or main effort is to become independent by getting rid of his shop debts by paying them?—I find that he strives to get clear of debt to everybody. He wants to clear off the loans, and he starts on new ground and feels that he is in a different position.

3580. And then do you go so far as to say that the transformation, for instance, on the Ballin Estate, has produced a diminution of debt to the shopkeepers?—It has. I made inquiries from a very large shopkeeper in Ballaghaderreen, and I find that that is so, and I made inquiries in the bank, and I find that the men who owed money to the bank have now deposits.

3581. Just one more question. Do you attribute that result to the fact that these men have been able to earn money by the improvements carried on, and, therefore, they had, for the moment, more money to pay off their debts—do you think that is an appreciable cause?—Well, I attribute it to the feeling of security that they have in the land, that they work it better. They are more careful about everything once they become owners of the soil.

3582. And what effect do you think the fact of their ownership will have upon any casual labourers that they employ?—They are able to pay them better and support them better, and they do.

3583. Will they be harder upon them?—I do not think that the labourers will allow them.

3584. But the sense of ownership might produce that tendency, might it not?—With regard to the labourers it is the same all through. The labourers have to work for all classes; but I believe that with regard to the relations between the labourer and the tenant purchaser, the labourers will benefit in every sense, that they will get more wages and better food than before.

3585. The fact of ownership will have the same effect on a small holder as ownership will have on a landlord, I suppose?—I do not know how to explain it, but I believe that what I have stated is true, that the landlords as a class in the West had no sympathy with their tenants, and all they wanted was to get their rent; they did not care how the people made it. With regard to the ownership now by the people themselves, I do not think they will harden their hearts against the labourers.

3586. To sum up your answer to me, it is this: that the fact of ownership on a man becoming a peasant proprietor has the effect of making him more anxious and giving him more moral fibre to use the land well and hold his head higher than before with regard to getting clear of debt and independent?—Yes. Anyone who knew the country twenty years ago and goes round the country now will see for himself that that is so. What I referred to was only the ownership of land, the dual ownership. Of course it is a different thing between the tenant purchaser and the labourer, because the labourer has no part in the land. But I referred only to dual ownership.

3587. **Sir ANTHONY MacDONNELL.**—May I ask one question, arising out of Sir John Coleman's question. Do you find that banks charge tenant purchasers a lower rate of interest than they used to charge to them before their purchase?—Well, I do. I think the banks charge a little too much to the ordinary borrower. They charge as much as 10 per cent.

3588. **THE CHAIRMAN.**—What banks are you particularly referring to now?—The country banks.

3589. The ordinary joint-stock banks?—The branches of the Bank of Ireland, National, and all the other banks.

3590. **Sir ANTHONY MacDONNELL.**—You know, as a fact, that tenant purchasers can get money from the banks when they want it on cheaper terms than borrowers who are not tenant purchasers?—That is true. A man who is supposed to be a good mark will get better terms than a man who is known to be poor.

3591. Will that hold good with regard to shopkeepers?—Allowing debt?

3592. Giving credit at the ordinary rate at which they give credit?—Well, I suppose it will be some extent, but I am told and know that the people are not so anxious to get into debt to the shopkeepers as they were. In fact they want to keep out of debt.

3593. **Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.**—Do I understand that the credit allowed by the shopkeeper is charged as interest for a loan. A tenant holder runs into debt. Does the shopkeeper charge him interest for that?—In some places they do, but the better class of shopkeepers do not.

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3594. Mr. BRYCE.—But the credit that Sir Antony referred to was that, instead of charging 2s. for a pound of tea they let them have it for 1s. 10d.—No, sir, that is not the case. What Sir Antony referred to, as I understand, was whether the banks would give better terms to a peasant proprietor than to an ordinary tenant farmer, owing to the fact that he was in a more comfortable position and would require less money.

3595. The way in which it would work out, is not at this, in reference to the commodities that are sold to the farmer. Does the farmer after he has become a purchaser and gets into a better condition pay cash for his goods to the shopkeeper?—A good many of them do.

3596. How much cheaper in that case will they get a pound of tea?—I could not tell you that exactly, but I know they get better terms.

3597. It is a very important point, because we found when we were down in Carra that the people there were paying 2s. a pound for tea that they could easily have got for 15d., or 1s. at the outside in London if they were prepared to pay in cash?—They pay a good deal more than 2s.

3598. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What do you think in your district the small holder pays the shopkeeper for his tea?—I was including any people recently on that very thing. They were buying tea that was too expensive. While you, and others like you, were satisfied with much cheaper tea, the old women in the West say, "The little drop they take they like it good."

3599. What do they pay for the little drop?—From 1s. 8d. to 2s. 6d. and 3s.

3600. Mr. BRYCE.—Might it not be under the old system, that where they were buying on credit the interest was added to the price?—So it was, and they do the same, and they pay more where they put it down in the book. The shopkeeper could not afford to give it to a man who will not pay him for twelve months at the same rate that he could give it to a man who pays his money across the counter.

3601. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—What I wanted to get at was, whether in their dealings with shopkeepers the same change had supervened as in the dealings of these people with the banks; that is, whether on account of their credit being better they got their goods at a cheaper price?—I think it is more so than even with the banks.

3602. There is one other question. You mentioned some time ago that these banks occasionally charge as much as 10 per cent. for loans?—Yes, that is the general rate for small loans.

3603. That is of course, no doubt, on account of the insecurity of the loan?—Yes.

3604. But such a high rate is not charged to a tenant purchaser?—Well, I am afraid for small sums they do not make so much difference.

3605. Is there a fixed rate of discount for small sums?—The banks of the country, as far as I know, most of them, charge ten per cent. for small sums.

3606. Then, where do the improved credit and position come in?—They generally get larger sums than, and the interest is something less.

3607. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What do you call a small sum?—Anything under £10.

3608. Mr. BRYCE.—Do you not think that a bank would to a certain extent be justified in charging a high rate for a small sum, because it makes a great deal more trouble and clerical labour necessary?—I suppose that is the ground on which they go, but the practice has got to be such as the case.

3609. In connection with that matter of the tea it is an important point what rate the shopkeepers charge these people, and I think if you, before the Commission goes down to Swindon, would make some inquiries and get some samples of the kinds of teas that are charged at the different rates, we should be able to find out whether it was really that the people did get better tea or whether they were charged more for inferior tea?—I am afraid that would not be practicable. I am afraid I would not like to go round asking them for samples of tea.

3610. I do not mean the shopkeepers, but the people who had bought the tea could give you the kind of tea and what they had paid. My belief is this, that a person who is charged 2s. has very little chance of having got a bargain, and that the tea may be only worth a shilling. It is not that they take better tea, though that may be the case to some extent?—I agree that they charge them more than they charge the man who pays down cash.

3611. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is not it the fact, rather, that the people would not think that they get good tea unless they paid 2s.?—There is no doubt that when they go to a respectable house, when they pay a good price for the tea, they believe they will get good tea for it, and they get it.

3612. The CHAIRMAN.—Before we leave the subject of the condition of the people, I should like to ask you a question. In answer to Sir John Colclough you stated that in or about the years 1875 to 1880, very few people ate meat once a month?—There were some in the parish that did not eat it more than once in the year—the generality of the people.

3613. Is that different now?—Well, to some extent it is, and to a large extent in the congested districts.

3614. Do you mean that the new tenants on the Duffon Estate eat meat oftener and have a higher standard of living than twenty years ago?—They are more meat and dress better than before—than at that time. They were as poor a class of tenants as you could come across at that time, but they are lifting their heads a little, and becoming more independent.

3615. Is it not one of the features of bad years, that when blight prevails, the potato crop, which is so much the current dietary, is a very inferior article for food?—It is most undoubtedly the case, and it has been the case that in the bad years the disease current among the people is owing to the food on which they have subsisted.

3616. But you would not say that potatoes, as far as they go, are bad dietary when there is a good potato crop?—I think potatoes are as good food as any other, when they have what they call "kitchen" with it.

3617. And is Indian meal good food?—Very good food if the people could get enough.

3618. But in years of distress, there is not enough of food of any class?—Of any class whatever, and the fact that Relief Committees had to be formed every year in those years is the best proof that I can give you; and during all the years that I have been on the mission one out of four or five years has been a year of distress, and there was as much money spent for the relief of distress in the West as, if we could get an equivalent sum now, would almost settle the West; and there was as much money spent for the relief of distress in the West as should put the people on their feet if properly administered.

3619. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In the quarter of a century beginning with 1870?—Beginning with 1879. I tried to get from my own district, the Swinford district, within the amount spent for the relief of distress in that union, but I could not get it, because the Government here in the Castle administered the money themselves.

3620. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It would be published in the reports of the Local Government Board?—Oh, no. The Local Government Board had nothing to do with it.

3621. You mean not public money, but subscribed by the public for charitable purposes?—Oh, no; it was money voted.

3622. If you give the Secretary a note of the figures you want, he will see if they cannot be got for you?—I say the amount of money that was spent in the West since 1879 on the relief of distress.*

3623. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—But would not the voluntary contributions of the charitable public add very considerably to those moneys?—Oh, yes; all the money spent through the unions besides, because the unions did the work; but, over and above that it was known that in one year alone Mr. Balfour expended £1,500,000.

3624. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You believe that the relief money spent in the past had no permanent effect?—No permanent effect.

3625. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You are not taking into consideration the railways, are you?—Well, that was for the relief of distress.

3626. But they are permanent memorials?—They are permanent memorials.

3627. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You state that, in your opinion, by far the larger number of holdings on the Duffon Estate could be made economic by better methods of cultivation and management?—I think so.

3628. When you say "economic," do you mean that the holdings themselves would support a family, or do you mean the holdings plus additional industries?—I mean the holdings themselves, without any other.

* The information required is being, so far as is possible, collected and classified.—Secretary.

transcend aid, would be sufficient to support an ordinary family, for these reasons. The valuation on the Dillon Estate is very low, as it was not changed since 1852, and the land of the Dillon Estate in 1852 was very bad. It is all of an improvable quality, and if they improve it, a £5 holding on the Dillon Estate will be, to my mind, as good as a £10 holding on another estate.

3629. **Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.**—That improvement will depend, will it not, on the construction of large public works, such as drainage?—The most important public work, in my mind, in Ireland is drainage.

3630. And the tenants would not be able to carry out these great drainage works?—No, but some public body could. If the West is to be benefited, the first great scheme will be a drainage scheme. The drainage on the Dillon Estate is practically done, and well done.

3631. **Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.**—That is the main drainage?—The main drainage.

3632. **Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.**—So that on the Dillon Estate the expenditure of great sums of public money is not necessary if you would make the holdings economic—the work that has to be done has to be done by the tenants themselves?—That is true in some of the districts on the Dillon Estate, but there are districts here and there where the Board could not carry out the work.

3633. But your statement, which is general, that a number of the tenants' holdings, although of a limited area, can yet be made economic only applies to a particular circumscribed tract?—My own belief is that most holdings could be made economic than perhaps some people imagine.

3634. Without the previous expenditure of large sums of money on a drainage scheme?—No. I state that you must have drainage to enable these people to improve the land.

3635. **Mr. BRUCE.**—I think that Mr. Doran told us, in answer to questions which I put, that he considered that out of 4,300 holdings on the Dillon Estate about 500, he thought, never could be brought into an economic condition. Do you agree with that?—I have great faith in the poor man's ability to make a living on his holding, no matter how small, if he makes out of it as much as it can yield.

3636. And then you think those 500 could be reduced to a much smaller number?—That is my opinion.

3637. **Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.**—You believe that family labour was an important factor in Irish agriculture, and you would have a holding of such moderate size that all the family would be induced to work on the holding?—Each man's holding should be a garden, and the people should see how much is taken out of a garden, and that each man should have his holding as a garden. Of course there were difficulties, because the land was not up to this put through any proper system of agriculture. The man had to go away to England, and leave the work to be done by his wife and children, and then he did not know how long he would have the land or how much he would have to pay; but I believe if they get education and proper instruction and some help, that Connaught will not be quite so bad as it was in the past.

3638. These labourers who go from the Dillon Estate to England as soon as they are owners of their homesteads will work hard during the winter and improve them?—They will work hard, and so many will not go to England. I have known in my own parish that some used to go to England, but now remain at home, and are satisfied that they have done as well as if they went to England by trying to improve their land.

3639. And that ought to be general?—Yes, there are a great many families where that cannot be done yet. But in order to improve a holding a man must be at home in the winter time and the spring. If not, he cannot make improvements on the land.

3640. **Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.**—May we take the holdings on the Dillon Estate as being fair samples of the holdings generally in Mayo and parts of Mayo with which you are acquainted?—Well, so far as samples, in the parish in which I am at present, is concerned the holdings are a great deal smaller.

3641. You say that the holdings on the Dillon Estate, at least the great majority of them, could, without any extension of area, be made economic?—That is my belief. They have pretty fair areas of improvable

land, and if that were brought into cultivation the holdings would become economic.

3642. What I want to bring out is this: There is an apparent contradiction, to my mind, in your statement and in your paper. You say that the holdings on the Dillon Estate may be made economic?—Most of them.

3643. And those holdings on the Dillon Estate are fairly representative of the holdings generally throughout the part of Mayo with which you are acquainted?—Yes, they may be considered fairly representative.

3644. And then in your statement you say that if there be not an addition of grass lands, if grass lands are not got for distribution among the small holdings, these small holdings will remain uneconomic?—Yes.

3645. I am sure there is no real contradiction, but it seems to be a contradiction?—There is no contradiction, because on the Dillon Estate, as I have said, the holdings are of a fair size, and in the other districts on the other properties the holdings are a great deal smaller, and where the holdings are small, no matter how much you improve them a family could not live on them. There are some in my parish at present and no matter how much they might improve them they could not live on them.

3646. **The CHAIRMAN.**—Before we pass from these points, there are just two questions I would put. In the first place, you say that the effect of land purchase on these people is to induce them to pay cash to the shopkeeper?—Yes, that is my opinion.

3647. Is not it your experience, at least in some cases, that, having become tenant purchasers, they obtain greater credit from the shop, and, therefore, that it is a temptation to them to increase their debt to the shop rather than the contrary?—These are the exceptions. I find that the rule is that when a man becomes owner he becomes thrifty and tries to pay cash. Of course, you will get an odd man who, no matter what may be done for him, will still not take the advantage of the opportunities given to him, but will get into debt. The fact of his acquiring the whole interest of his land will, of course, give the shopkeeper more security.

3648. Obviously. Of course the shopkeeper will be willing to allow that man to run up a bigger bill at his shop than before when he has got the land as a security?—Of course. And I would be very glad to see an Act passed that the shopkeeper could not recover more than a certain amount from him.

3649. And it is your experience generally that the effect of land purchase has not been to induce the people to increase their debts to the shop, but, rather, the other way?—My experience is that the people become more thrifty, owe less to the shopkeeper, and do not get into debt as much as before.

3650. Then you say that you think that if it had not been for charitable funds that were started about the time of the potato failure many of the people would have died of starvation. Do you really mean that?—I believe that I saw people there who, if they did not get help from some quarter—

3651. Help from some quarter?—But I am literally correct in saying that in that year of 1847 there were so many people who had absolutely nothing, that if they did not get relief from the relief funds they would have died.

3652. But do you include with the charitable fund the operations of poor law relief?—They could not get poor law relief at that time because they had more than a certain quantity of land. They could not get relief out of the workhouse.

3653. The relief is limited to people that have less than a certain amount of land?—Yes.

3654. **Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.**—What is the limitation now?—I think it is the same still.

3655. **Mr. BRUCE.**—I gather from your answer to the Chairman that you do not anticipate that there is much danger of those tenant purchasers getting to any large extent into the hands of money lenders—either professional money lenders or shopkeepers?—No; it is quite the other way. You may make up your mind to that, that it will have that effect, that they will be far less in debt to the shopkeepers, bankers, or money lenders.

3656. Then you would not say that legislation in the nature of a homestead law or anything of that kind was really necessary in order to protect those tenant purchasers?—I think it would be well to have it

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for the utility—for that one class. It would save them from themselves.

3657. The CHAIRMAN.—What sort of thing would you suggest?—I would suggest, as was suggested in some Act, that the shopkeeper could not come upon what is necessary for the cultivation of the land, or upon the stock that was necessary for the support of the family.

3658. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Or could not recover beyond a certain sum?—Could not recover beyond a certain sum.

3659. Have you any idea of the sum?—I think that should vary with the size of the holding.

3660. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would not that be all the more necessary seeing that in the succession from father to son some independent man if they were not restrained might wreck the work of two or three generations?—I think it would be a great blessing if we had it. Still, undoubtedly one of the effects of land purchase is, and will be, that the tenant purchaser will owe less to shopkeepers, banks, and money lenders.

3661. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Would not that have been the effect of one of the provisions which were included in the Bill of 1903 as introduced into Parliament?—I believe it would. I was very anxious that it should pass.

3662. You have no idea of what were the reasons or arguments which induced the rejection of that provision?—I have not, and I think it was a pity that it was not in the Act.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I quite agree with you.

3663. Mr. BRYCE.—With regard to an answer you gave to Sir John Colclough, you said, I think, that the tenant always used to look in the old days on the debt to the landlord for rent as a negligible thing and did not care about that, or feel that that was a debt that he ought to pay?—He never thought that he was morally obliged to pay it.

3664. Now, considering the length of time during which they have entertained this view, is there no danger of their holding a similar view in the future under the new arrangements?—There is no doubt that having come to look on the tenure of land in the light of the past for some time, he might be inclined, if he could, to do so in the future, but I believe he is so anxious to hold the land that it is the best security that will be in Ireland. There is no doubt that a man once he is satisfied with the price will pay his instalments, no matter if he had to go back again to potatoes and Indian meal.

3665. Suppose he might think that he is paying too much?—I mean that there is a great deal of that kind of thing going on now—do you not think that he will begin to look on that in the same way?—I do not think so. Every year makes it his interest to pay next year. He is reducing the amount and he is increasing his interest in the land.

3666. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is not it very important that sensible people round him should have the conviction that a reasonable amount was paid upon him?—Oh, it is by all means very important.

3667. Is not there this pressure upon him to compel him to pay his instalments which does not tell as regards rent, that if he makes default his neighbour will have to make up for his default?—They are collectively responsible.

3668. Is not it a fact that the mortgagees under the Land Purchase Act have to make up for default of tenant purchasers?—Yes, that is quite true. That is the last resort. They have taken great care to mortgage all Irish securities.

3669. Unless it is anticipated, I would like to ask you in reference to the indentment which you consider ownership holds out to him to improve, whether if a very large price were paid for a holding the value of that indentment would largely disappear?—Yes, that is so.

3670. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—There is one remark which you made to which I will bring you back. You say the Irish tenant never thought he was bound to pay his rent. Are you prepared to adhere to that statement?—I am.

3671. In all cases?—I am speaking now and all through of the tenants in the West who were under that class of landlords who never had the smallest consideration for them, and fixed the rent at anything they liked without the tenant having anything to say to it.

3672. Would you not like to correct your statement

in this way, that where the tenant thought his rent exorbitant he did not feel himself under the same moral obligation to pay it as he felt when the idea of exorbitancy did not enter into it. Are you prepared to say that the Irish tenant in the West of Ireland regarded a fair rent as a thing which he was under obligation to pay?—In the few cases in which you had fair rents the tenants undoubtedly will tell you that they paid punctually.

3673. But where rents were fixed in the Land Courts since 1881, are you prepared to say the Irish tenants in the West of Ireland did not regard it as a moral obligation to pay those rents?—No; but I referred to the state of things that existed before 1881.

3674. That is going back to ancient history, but let us come to the Irish tenant since 1881, because, if you will excuse me, I speak of the Irish tenants who would be inclined to repudiate the statement?—I am speaking of the state of things that existed before the Land Acts. I do say, and it is natural, that when the landlord fixed exorbitant and extravagant rents and the tenant got into debt to him, he never thought he was morally bound to pay that debt afterwards. Of course, since the tenant himself had anything to say, or since he got anything like justice, I think there is no man who paid better. There is another point, with regard to the holdings on the Dillon Estate, I think I was not strictly accurate. The holdings on the Dillon Estate are peculiar to this extent, that I have stated already that they had fair areas of improvable land, and I think I was not right in saying that they are a fair type of the state of things in the West of Ireland, because the men on other properties have not as much land, while the land valuation elsewhere may be higher. When the valuation was made in 1852 on the Dillon Estate the valuation was low, because it was all uncultivated rough land, and a £5 holding on the Dillon Estate is, to my mind, as good as the £10 holding elsewhere. I mean by the improvements that the tenants have made in that estate since 1852.

3675. Do you say that it was under the old order of things, before the remedial legislation, that the tenant did not regard as morally obligatory on him, the payment of the rent which the landlord fixed at his own caprice?—Yes.

3676. But since the remedial Act of 1881 the tenants have got into a different frame of mind and do regard payment of their rent as an obligation?—Yes, and even have passed it so, because they owe very little.

3677. The CHAIRMAN.—When you talk of landlords who fix rents at caprice, the question arises of the consent of the tenant to pay that rent?—Yes; but what could he do—he was between the devil and the deep sea. He had to agree and had no place to go to. He had his wife and family to think of, and if he did not agree to it, not he went.

3678. Speaking on principle, what is there in Ireland to force a man to agree to pay more than a thing is worth when he would not undertake to do so in any other country?—In Ireland, if they leave the land they have plenty of other things to turn to. They can take up something else. In Ireland, if they leave the land, they have to go to the workhouse or America.

3679. Because of the difficulty of getting employment in Ireland, a man here will agree to pay more for land than he can get out of it?—Yes.

3680. You think that therefore the landlord should charge him only the rent which the land is worth, and which may be very much smaller than what the tenant has consented to pay?—I do not think the landlords dealt in that way. Whenever a landlord dealt in that way fairly by his tenants, the tenants treated him better than any other tenants in the whole world, looked up to him, paid their rent and starved themselves, whenever they got anything like fair treatment. But our experience in the West is, that no landlord took any interest as his people except to get the rent. Whatever rent he wanted the agent collected, and if he wanted more to spend abroad he told the agent who went round, and if he saw one man more thriving than another he got more rent on that man.

3681. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is there not this difference in the payment of such rent and a fair rent, that when it is a question of paying a fair rent the farmer may begin to consider the point of whether the Sub-Commission gave a good reduction, whether the Commission was for the tenant or not?—Yes, I know that they find a great difference in the Commissioners all over Ireland. It is quite true. There is a great difference between the different Commissioners who sit to decide cases.

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3683. Does this point to the conclusion that there is scarcely any finality until they sell the land to the tenants on reasonable terms?—The only finality for the tenant is the purchase of the land. A great change for the better has come over the district I refer to, however, and these people are now fairly prosperous and contented. A beginning was made to change the old state of things in 1863, with the purchase of the Castle property for the tenants. There were 290 of them on that property. The purchase price varied from seven to sixteen and a-half years' purchase, the average being eleven and a-half years' purchase, the landlord giving over to the tenants 3,000 acres of mountain and bog for nothing. There was considerable trouble in apportioning the purchase money, which came to £25,000, but eventually they agreed to the amount I fixed, and the bogs were striped and divided amongst them. As it was bought under the Act of 1863, the tenants had to make up a quarter of the purchase money, which amounted to £6,250, and of this sum all the tenants could make up in cash was £1,500, and the balance—£4,750—we had to raise in the local branch of the Hibernian Bank on the joint security of every six of the tenant purchasers, guaranteed by the two principal traders in the town of Ballaghaderreen.

3684. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Would you state what percentage was paid for that?—For that advance we paid six per cent. It was a large sum, £4,750, and it was a great undertaking. It was a still greater responsibility, there could be no doubt, to get the two principal traders of the town to back the bids. They got seven years for paying it to the bank, in seven equal instalments, and every shilling of it was paid back most punctually, so that neither the bank nor the guarantee lost one shilling by the transaction, although it was the very poorest tenants who had to borrow the money.

3685. It was a great thing for them?—It is to the credit of the class of tenants represented by them.

3686. It was a private arrangement?—It was necessary to raise the £6,250, and all the tenants could raise among them, the 290 of them, was £1,500.

3687. Why had you to make up the £6,250?—That was one-fourth of the total purchase price, which amounted to £25,000. It was before the Ashbourne Act. The Act of 1851 required that the tenants should pay one-fourth of the purchase price in cash.

3688. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Was that under the Bright Classes?—Not exactly under the Bright Classes.

3689. The CHAIRMAN.—What was the landlord's position?—I cannot go into that. The position then was that the State would advance three-fourths of the purchase money and the tenant had to make up the other fourth. Then the Ashbourne Act came, and it gave the four-fourths, that is, it advanced the whole amount. I have visited this property recently, and I heard from the people themselves the most gratifying accounts of the improvement in their condition since the purchase. I found those whom I knew to be in the poorest circumstances, without a house on the land and in debt to the shop-keepers and banks, now having very good means, their lands well stocked, and some of them having money in the bank. Anybody could see the improvement in their circumstances and surroundings and in the land itself.

3690. When this property was vested in the tenants, were any improvements made upon it?—No, not by any public body.

3691. By anybody?—Improvements were made by the tenants themselves. They began at once to make improvements.

3692. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Was there any striping done?—It was striped before the purchase.

3693. The CHAIRMAN.—There were really no rearrangements?—The only striping that was done was the 3,000 acres of bog that was given in by the landlord.

3694. If there was money available, would that property have been improved if taken up by a body like the Congested Districts Board?—No doubt more good would have been done if a body like the Congested Districts Board had taken it for a time, because there could have been a few main drains made and general improvements made.

3695. Were the tenants economic tenants?—In a very large number of cases they had fair-sized hold-

ings of improvable land, and the land they had has since been reclaimed by them very considerably.

3696. Mr KAVANAGH.—By whom were these lands striped?—It was striped by the same landlord before the purchase. All the time I have known it I think none of it was held in runcle.

3697. There is one landlord, at any rate, who made improvements?—I am sorry to say that striping in the past meant raising the rents. Where a little has been striped by the landlords they put on an additional rent immediately.

3698. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Would not the change from runcle, the process of striping, add increased value to the land? Was it not reasonable to suppose there should be some increase in the rent?—It would have a little value in that respect. But the increase in the rent would be out of all proportion to that.

3699. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—With reference to the purchase price, seven to sixteen years' purchase, was that governed by the quality of the soil?—It was I had to go over the whole of the land, and I do think it was bought at a low price. Of course good land is cheap at any price. I had to fix what each would pay. They had not the bogs at the time it was fixed.

3700. Did you put any price upon the bogs in the transaction?—No; that was put into the terms of sale without any fixed price. I may say we agreed to pay the landlord £1,500 more for this property than we eventually paid, but the Land Commission would not advance the money. That was after Mr. Marnagh O'Brien had come down.

3701. Did the owner of the property complain of that?—Yes, he was dissatisfied, and I believe the case was brought up in Parliament by the late Colonel King-Harman as a specimen of the inquiry of the Land Commission in sinking anything off the price.

3702. You were willing to give a higher price than the landlord actually accepted?—Yes.

3703. Seventeen years' purchase, was that the price you were prepared to give?—We were prepared to give in years' purchase twelve and a-half on the average. What we did give was an average of eleven and a-half years' purchase, with 3,000 acres of bog for nothing.

3704. The Most Hon. Mr. O'Donnell.—Was it the value of the security that was objected to?—Yes, and you must remember that they would only advance three-fourths, not the whole, of the £25,000.

3705. Mr. BRYCE.—What interest did the State charge then?—Four per cent.

3706. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Was it for forty-nine years?—Yes.

3707. There were no decadal reductions?—No. But they have got new decadal reductions, since they got the benefit of the Ashbourne Act.

3708. This is an important matter in reference to the purchase legislation. Do you consider the system of decadal reductions advantageous to the tenant?—In this case I believe the case was they got it so low, and they have done so well making large improvements, that it does not much matter. As a rule, I think it is a great encouragement to a man to know that at the end of ten years he has to get a reduction.

3709. He would get regular reductions. The reductions were four in number, that is, the first, then the second, the third, and then the final. The last was for forty-two and a-half years, so that the whole period covered was seventy-two and a-half years?—Yes, seventy-two and a-half years.

3710. Have you ever had the curiosity to calculate what would be the percentage spread evenly over the whole of the seventy-two and a-half years. I think it was beginning with four per cent. I think that was calculated by Mr. Doran. It would be nearly the same thing. We found out when we were selling Clare Island.

3711. That is 23 4s. on £100 for seventy-two and a-half years against 23 6s., the present thing, for sixty-eight and a-half years. Was not that pretty nearly equal?—Yes.

3712. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Have you got the records showing the complete details of this transaction, the sale and purchase?—I believe the Land Commission has them.

3713. It will show the rental, and will show the relative position of the tenants as regards the annual payments, and their rental before purchase?—Yes.

3714. In this case I suppose it will illustrate the fact that it was worth while for the tenants to make

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considerable sacrifices in order to change their position as tenants to that of purchasers—I show you the results which prove it was well worth their while.

3715. Is it a unique case this case of raising ready money on credit, giving local security to the bank for a period of seven years?—I remember I pressed it upon them at the time that the prospect of becoming owners apart from the reduction of the payments was a consideration, and I managed to raise the money and got them to agree to be liable for the period of seven years. It was almost unique—I am not aware of any other case—that is, in the way we financed it. The Land Commission have the full particulars.

3716. It was a wonderful undertaking. Can you carry, in your mind, what reduction the man got who bought his farm at seven years' purchase, and paid 4 per cent. interest on the money, what reduction he actually got as compared with his rent?—I think his instalment to the Land Commission would be very little over one-fourth of his old rent.

3717. All those particulars would be apparent from the records laid with the Land Commission?—Yes, I think they are all available there.

3718. They would show the amount of land, the rent, the price paid, the amount of the State advance, and so on, in each case?—The State advance was three-fourths of the purchase money. They refused to give us the first price fixed, that is, one year's purchase was taken off.

3719. If the proposal was the same now, would not the tenants find some difficulty if they had to raise one-fourth of the purchase price. Do you think that any sales would take place?—I am afraid there would be very few.

3720. Is it the case that we have advanced so rapidly, there are so many more facilities given, that the people are not prepared to help themselves to the same extent as they did, say, in this case?—The people, in my opinion, are willing to help themselves when they get a chance. We got two of the principal traders of the town to come to their assistance. That is not easily done. It was extraordinary to get two traders to become liable for a sum of £4,500.

3721. That was an unique case. Assuming that we went back to the principle that the tenants in order to become owners had to find some money, ready money, do you think such an Act would be operative now?—I do not think it would operate to the extent that people desire now.

3722. Is that desire due to the fact that the State has given, in the last few years, infinitely more facilities for the tenants to become owners?—That has something to do with it, no doubt, but the fact is that the tenants, as a rule, now wish to become owners no matter how the money is to be got.

3723. Are they in many cases inclined to give less for the land than it is really worth?—My experience is that they were always willing to give a fair price. Wherever they can get any kind of a fair price they are willing to buy. I think what any man should get is a fair price, but they do not seem to be willing to sell at that.

3724. Is it not human nature—the more we get the more we want?—To some extent that is so, no doubt.

3725. Whether it is a fair price or not?—The landlords act on that, I am sorry to think, especially since 1903.

3726. We are all Irishmen and tarred with the same brush. This was before the Act of 1903. What I wanted really to get at was that the present facilities ought to be sufficient for the purpose of operating the transfer of land from the landlord to the tenant?—I think the present law, if I may deal with it, offers facilities enough for purchase with very few amendments; if the houses were properly administered, I think there is very little more to be done to transfer the land from the landlord to the tenant.

3727. It is your opinion that enough has been done to facilitate the transfer of the land from the landlord to the tenant?—Enough has been done if the landlords would only accept a fair price. There is plenty of money, but my view is that with regard to this district, the West, if we got as much money as they expended in relief works and no permanent improvement, it would go a long way to settle the West; if the West could get its share of the bonus, some four or five millions, before it is all gone; I think you could settle the Western problem with this four or five millions.

3728. Do you mean by offering higher inducements to the landlords?—I do. For a certain class of land, I would give for the grass lands a higher bonus and for land for the Congested Districts Board a higher bonus.

The CHAIRMAN.—I think we had better leave for the moment the question of the bonus.

3729. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—On the system of decadal reductions, and the benefits of the system, and the average instalments payable under that system, is it not a fact that the longer the period of redemption the smaller will be the annuity to be paid?—That is so.

3730. Therefore, when one is discussing the advantages or disadvantages of that system it is a question of whether it is good policy to have a large payment at the start and reserve the smaller payment for the end of the term?—Yes, that is the question.

3731. Did that system come in with the Act of 1886?—Yes, I think it was in 1886. But the Act of 1886 made provision not only for purchasers under that Act, but for the purchasers under previous Land Acts. They have got the advantages of that Act, and these tenants have now got decadal reductions. Proceeding with the Decadal estate, there could be no doubt whatsoever, it was the feeling of ownership in the land that stimulated them to produce such stimulating results. When I questioned them as to how they had improved so much since they purchase, they invariably gave the same answer: "The land is now our own." They appeared surprised that anyone should ask the question, as if there could be any other reason than the one they gave: "The land is now our own." A similar state of things exists on the properties bought by the Board. The Dillon tenants have made more improvements for the last six years than for the previous sixty years. The same is true of the Port Royal, the Leonard, the Strong, and the other estates bought by the Board. A most gratifying progressive activity is showing itself everywhere once the people find they are owners of their own land. Under the magic spell of peasant proprietary holdings that were looked upon as uncommercial are so improved that many of them are now becoming commercial. The spirit will continue to grow. They will not grudge their labour when they know the land is their own, and the more labour expended on the land, the more comfortable the general public must be.

3732. Sir FRANCIS NEWITT.—The general public means, I suppose, the families of the small holders?—I mean shopkeepers, and all the rest who will benefit by the improved condition of the labouring man. I look upon land purchase as the first step that should be taken on behalf of the small farmers in Connaught. Until the whole of the land is owned by the people the Western problem will not be solved. The whole province should be scheduled as congested, and the Board should get power to take over at a fair price any land that may remain unsold in the province after 31st December, 1907, and they should also get the option of buying any grass land that the landlords may wish to part with in the meantime. The purchase of the grass lands by the Board is the one and only chance for the settlement of the land problem in the West. If graziers and shopkeepers are allowed to buy the grass land over the heads of the small farmers, congestion will be perpetuated, and the poor man will never again have any chance of getting a few acres of good land, which, if added to his small patch, would render it economic. He must still remain in the bog, whilst the grass land at his door, and from which himself or his father may perhaps have been evicted, is given over to the grazier. The State should not lend money for this purpose. If the Board do not get the grass lands how can they hope to effect any permanent improvement in the condition of the poor tenants on a wretched estate adjustment. Unless the Board have grass lands for enlargement of small holdings or migration, there seems little hope for the tenants living on small mountain holdings or on reclaimed bog. The land in most of the congested districts is unable to maintain its population, and the people therein must either get some additional land or emigrate or become paupers. Through the land alone, so far as I can see, must be sought the means of permanently improving their condition. If the grass lands be not now acquired by the Board on reasonable terms we have congestion stereotyped for ever. In this connection I would respectfully suggest that the time has come for reconsidering the question of the bonus.

If a bonus of 20 per cent. were given to the landlords for the grass lands, if bought by the Board for enlargement of holdings or migration purposes, it would, I believe, have a very considerable influence.

3732. The CHAIRMAN.—I doubt whether the question of the allocation of the bonus comes within the scope of our inquiry?—I think it was said in the reference, "What changes in the law or administration are needed for dealing with the problem of congestion?"

3734. I do not think we ought to question you upon it.—At all events, I wish to bring before you what my recommendation would be, and I think I am within the terms of the reference, which stated that "changes in the law or administration for dealing with the problem of congestion," should be considered.

3735. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is it among the instruments that ought to be offered to the landlords in this case?—I think it would be a great inducement to the landlords to part with their grass lands if they got a higher bonus.

3736. The CHAIRMAN.—Very great?—I think landlords who have grass lands should get an additional bonus, as an inducement to part with those lands. If you gave 20 per cent. bonus for the grass land they might be induced to come to terms with the Board. I certainly should not pay any bonus from the State to the landlord who wished to sell his grass land to any private individual.

3737. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—What do you mean by a private individual?—I mean a grader. The bonus would be for grass land sold to the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board for improvement purposes.

3738. Sir JAMES COLEMAN.—On the grass farms, would you stop the operation of the Act by the Estates Commissioners in the sale to tenants of grass farms?—Yes. As an addition to the price the landlord would get four or five years' purchase on the bonus. If the West could get four or five millions of the bonus before it is all gone, I think it would settle the question.

3739. Is it not simply a case of how the landlord goes out, whether, without or with the bonus, the landlord retires into private life with less or the same income which he had before? Is not that the same question?—It is the whole question from the landlord point of view. If a bonus of 20 per cent. were given to the landlord for the grass land, if bought by the Board for enlargement of holdings or migration purposes, it would, I believe, have considerable influence in inducing them to come to terms with the Board. There certainly should be no bonus given by the State to the landlord who wishes to sell his grass land to any private individual.

3740. The CHAIRMAN.—When you say the whole province of Connemara ought to be scheduled, what course would you adopt with regard to Donegal and parts of Munster?—I think the Western problem is beyond and distinct from all the other areas, such as Donegal or Kerry. It would demand distinct treatment. The West is different from all the other areas, and they have circumstances you do not find in the West. We have, in the West, these grass lands, and they have not, in general, so much grass land. I would consider to that extent I was right in talking about the Dillon tenants. I think we don't want so much land as Mr. Derran appeared to think we would. Between Roscommon, Mayo, and Galway, we have quite enough land for the wants of Connemara, that is if the people get the land that is available, and if the non-residential holdings over £25 valuation are acquired by the Board for the purpose of sharing among the tenants. If that were done, I believe you would go a long way towards settling the Western problem.

3741. So far as the congested condition of Connemara is concerned, you think that if you give the Board power to acquire the grass land in Connemara itself, you could settle the question without having to go out of Connemara itself?—I think it would settle it for many years. You could not settle it for ever. You could settle it, certainly, for twenty-five years—for another generation. Of course, I am not going to say it would be settled altogether. Something further would be left to be done, but you would not be troubled with the problem as you have been for the last twenty-five years—the problem of the poverty of the people. The great num-

ber of them would be placed in a position of being able to eke out a living.

3742. You will admit that when you suggest that you should schedule Connemara you are concerned with only the Connemara question. You suggest that the difficulty of Donegal and Kerry and other parts of the country that we have heard of, like the Glens of Antrim, have to be dealt with in a different fashion?—Yes, in a different fashion. As far as I know these counties I think that they require different and special treatment.

3743. You say that land should be taken over at a fair price. What do you mean by a fair price?—Of course it is very hard to answer that question. What I mean would be what a tenant could afford to give.

3744. It is, in fact, the tenant's price?—Not exactly what the tenant might fix, but what he could afford to give.

3745. Supposing what the tenant can afford to give is not the same as the landlord can afford to sell at?—What I mean, what I have in my mind is this. I think, for the grass lands, they would get a very high price if they got twenty-five years purchase of the valuation, or twenty-three or twenty-four years, and twenty per cent. bonus; if they got that I think the landlords ought to be fairly satisfied with it.

3746. You would not lay down any fixed number of years' purchase and say that is sufficient in all cases to satisfy a reasonable landlord?—I am sorry to say that on both sides people might be inclined to think that there is not much reason. The landlords think that the tenants have no reason, and the tenants think the landlords have less reason. The landlords have become most unreasonable since the Act of 1903. Before that they were willing to sell at less prices than now, along with the bonus.

3747. If a landlord is deriving a certain income from grass land, and the price which is offered by the Board for re-sale to the tenants does not return him an equivalent income, how do you suggest that the difficulty should be got over. You are contemplating compulsory purchase; do you suggest that the landlord should be compelled to sell where he is going to lose income by it?—Well, I don't know that there would be anything wrong even in suggesting that. If a landlord bought years ago I don't see why the State should not step in and say to him: Now, you have been so long getting such a rent, and it is necessary for the good of the public—the happiness of the larger number—that we should take over this land. We will give you a fair price for it, and there must be an independent tribunal that would fix what would be the fair purchase money.

3748. What is the difference between that and spoliation; what is the difference between that and anyone coming to any owner of any property and saying: I want what you possess for public purposes, and I am going to take it even if it means a dead loss to you?—The State acts on that principle that I lay down. In the matter of railways, should they consider it necessary to make a railway through a district they fix on a body that will decide the compensation for the landlord.

3749. But that is done by arbitration?—Yes, by arbitration, but there is a final authority to fix the sum. The landlord will try to get as much as he can. Very well then, you must have some tribunal that will fix the sum; if you say compulsion is necessary; if you say, as I think everyone will admit—except you want to perpetuate congestion, you must let them have some outlet, and you must give them grass lands. If grass lands are to be given the landlord will expect an exorbitant sum, and the tenant will be inclined to say he ought to get a low price. There must be a public tribunal to say: "This grass land is necessary for the people who are living in wretchedness. There are some of your tenants that you did nothing for. Either do something for them yourself or we will do something for them, and as you are not willing to do anything we must step in. We won't agree as to the amount, but let a tribunal be fixed to decide that."

3750. When you say they have done nothing for the tenants, will you give as instances of that. I understand that you found your justification for compulsion, to some extent at any rate, on the theory that nothing has been done by the landlords for the tenants. We are not talking of charitable feeling, but of what people are obliged to do. What, under the dual system, have the landlords been supposed to do for the tenants which they have not done?

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—I think a landlord of any kind, a fairly indulgent landlord—

3751. Don't take an indulgent landlord, but keep to the strict law?—Well, take a landlord; there are certain relations between landlord and tenant; he is surely ought to be anxious to see the tenants fairly well off, if it was only on selfish grounds. But if he never comes near them. Now, on this Dillon estate there was not one of the three or four thousand tenants ever saw the face of Lord Dillon, and Lord Dillon never saw them or spent a shilling on the estate. The agent went and collected every year a certain amount. Lord Dillon didn't mind—

3752. Then, is absenteeism sole cause of complaint?—No, I don't mind absenteeism, the local men are just as bad.

3753. What is the fault of the local men?—The local men try to extract money just the same as the absentee, and the fact of being resident, to my mind, does not benefit the tenants very much. Some of the resident gentry don't spend very much, and haven't very many employed round their homes.

3754. Let me understand. You said that the landlords did nothing for their tenants. Does it come to this, that when you say they did nothing you mean that they did too much, that they extracted rent when they ought not to have done so?—I mean that they did nothing to ameliorate or improve the condition of the tenant. Extracting money did not improve the condition. The English landlord, as far as I know, and I have been speaking to some English tenants, took an interest in the tenant and built his house and made fences where they were to be made, and gave him a chance, and the man knew what he had, whereas an Irish landlord won't. I could give you instances, but it is ancient history now, of harsh treatment by landlords of tenants who tried to improve their holdings—shunting them from one place to another, after they built a house in one place, sending them to another, and so on.

3755. The English system is so different from the Irish, that you cannot quote the behaviour of an English landlord towards his tenants as any comparison with what ought to be done in this country—the system of tenure is entirely different?—The Irish system is different from other systems all over the world.

3756. Well, it is sufficient to say that it is different from the English system, and it is not much help your saying that an English landlord does this and that towards his tenant, because the tenure under which the tenants hold the land is entirely and absolutely different. There he builds a farmhouse and keeps it up. It was never suggested since the Land Acts, that a landlord should either build or maintain an Irish farmhouse?—Whether it was suggested or not, he never did it.

3757. Would you suggest that an Irish landlord ought to do that, would you say that an Irish landlord ought to spend money upon a farmhouse?—No; and I think that at this hour of the day a suggestion of that kind is out of the question. The only thing that I suggest is, let us get rid of the system; there is no use in suggesting anything else. With the whole country in the condition it is, there is only one remedy. Suggesting anything of that kind would not be practical.

3758. What are the delinquencies of the landlords you refer to, on which you base your justification for compulsory purchase?—It is not the delinquencies exactly. I take now the indulgent landlord, if you like, who has small holdings on his property. I say there is as much necessity for compulsion there at present as anywhere else. You have to take the condition as you find it. The present condition of the tenants of Ireland in the congested districts is bad and wretched as could be. If the State wants to do anything to benefit these people they will have to look round and see how they can do it, and look to the happiness of the largest number, and, as in the other Land Bills, they appointed a tribunal to fix the amount the tenant should pay in rent. They didn't leave it to the landlord himself. That may have been thought by some of them at the time to have been near confiscation, but the landlords now admit, most of them, that it was fair. When the tenants wanted sixty of tenure, fair rent, and free sale, that was secured; but the landlords now admit that that was only a reasonable thing for the Irish tenant to ask. I say,

with all respect to this Commission, if I might suggest, that as this land is now available to be occupied by the resident population, that as this land at one time, most of it, belonged to those people or their fathers, it is only fair that they should get it back, and that a tribunal should assign the terms on which they should get it.

3759. What tribunal do you suggest?—Well, I would be satisfied with any tribunal the State would say; either the Land Commission or any body the State would consider a final court of appeal to which would be a reasonable price for landlord and tenant.

3760. In the event of non-agreement as to price it should be possible to refer to a tribunal—you suggest the Land Commission?—It is quite certain there will be disagreements, and there must be some court of appeal the same as for the fixing of rents, or for acquiring lands for railways.

3761. Is it certain that there will be disagreements? The Congested Districts Board purchase an enormous amount of land on the voluntary system?—I say in most cases, when you go to compulsion, the landlord will at once begin to think that now is an opportunity he ought to take advantage of, and he will ask an exorbitant price.

3762. Why?—Because he thinks he may have an opportunity of getting it.

3763. You mean that he thinks the tribunal or arbitrator will give it to him, or something like it?—He may think he will get better terms by going to the Court of Appeal.

3764. Then you think the effect of giving compulsory powers to the Board would immediately be to induce the landlords to increase their prices?—Well, I think that as the Act of 1903 has that effect, probably compulsion would also have a similar effect, and I find as a member of the Board that we cannot get grass lands at a reasonable price at present. If you don't appoint a tribunal to fix the price it is plain you won't get them. The Board want the grass lands, and there is no use in buying congested wretched holdings if they have no grass lands to grow them, if they have nothing to fall back upon, and if they cannot get the land at their doors. If the Board say—"this is the full value," and we have no demesne to ask them for less than the full value, and if the landlords say—"it is not the full value," there must be a tribunal to decide the real value.

3765. Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.—Were you present when Mr. Dornan gave his evidence?—For part of the time.

3766. He divided the province of Connaught into three zones, the zone along the sea coast and the central zone, and then a zone in the east of Connaught, and then he stated that the enlargement of the holdings in the coast zone was impracticable, because there was no untenanted land in that part of the world as a rule to be added on to the holdings, and he also stated that the migration of people from that zone was impracticable—that the people would not go?—I think so too.

3767. Do you agree in these two things?—I agree that the people along the coast are most likely to remain there, because they have opportunities that the inland people have not.

3768. Then he went on to say that the hope of relief of the position there lay in the promotion of fisheries and the encouragement of industries?—That is quite right. I agree that as a rule the people along the coast will not migrate. An odd one, of course, may be got, but we are speaking generally now, and what he says, in my opinion, is quite correct.

3769. Going on to the central zone he said there was also, as a rule, no untenanted land available for the enlargement of holdings there, and he also stated that it was in his opinion impracticable to get people to migrate from that zone—do you agree with that?—They won't be so much inclined to migrate from that zone as from the outer zone, but still they are more ready to migrate from it than from the maritime zone.

3770. But on the whole he said there was a strong disinclination to migrate from that zone, and he said that there also the hope of the alleviation of the situation lay in the promotion of industries, and in that intensive cultivation of the farms to which you have referred as producing these good results on the Dillon estate. Then there was the third zone, and he said that was the zone in which the advantage could be gained by increasing the size of the holdings and by migration?—I agree with that.

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3770. Then he supplemented that by saying that in the whole of the County Mayo there was no more untenanted land than would suffice for the enlargement of the holdings in the last case—do you agree with that?—I don't agree entirely with that, if my view be correct that the people can make out of their holdings under a proper system of cultivation more than he appears to think. I think, therefore, you don't want so much land for enlargement as he suggests.

3771. But at all events you generally agree that in due course improvement by the enlargement of holdings is practicable?—That is the case in which it is most practicable.

3772. Do you agree with his statement that in the County Mayo you will not find untenanted land to a larger extent than is necessary in the case of the holdings in that case?—I think that you will find in Mayo nearly as much land—between Mayo and Roscommon.

3773. Don't refer to Roscommon just now?—There is scarcely as much land in Mayo.

3774. Then you would broach Roscommon?—I would broach Roscommon.

3775. You would have enough lands then in Roscommon and Mayo taken together for the relief of the congestion in the West which can be relieved by the increase of the holdings?—In those two counties, yes, I believe so.

3776. Let us come on to the question of compulsion. You want to get hold of the land?—Yes.

3777. At the present time you have bidding for that land both the Congested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners?—Yes.

3778. Do you think it a desirable arrangement that these two Boards should be competing with each other? No. I think it is very undesirable. I think that the West should be given over to one body.

3779. You think that the question of land purchase in the West should be given over to one body?—Yes. That is my view.

3780. Have you any information as to the comparative prices which have been paid for untenanted land by the Congested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners?—I know what the Congested Districts Board have paid, but I have not any knowledge regarding the other. Of course I have a general knowledge, but I would not say that it is accurate. I have the ordinary knowledge that people have.

3781. Would you be disposed on getting possession of these untenanted lands to respect the holdings that had been bought by tenant purchasers, even if they were above £25 valuation?—No, I think we must treat all alike.

3782. Would you respect them if they were below £25 valuation?—I might come down a little lower than £25. I think you might come down to £15 on the non-residential holdings. The man who bought the £25 holding—even when there is no question of disturbing him—is a landlord now in the same sense as the owner, and I would put him in the same class whether he is a tenant purchaser or what used to be called a landlord. You must treat them all in the same way if you are going to solve the problem of congestion in the West.

3783. Would you exclude from the compulsory purchase which you advocate resident tenant purchasers no matter what the valuation of the holdings is?—That is a large question. I think in Scotland the crofters have a right where a man owns more than £100 worth of land to step in; but I think where a man lives on the holding, no doubt, he should have separate treatment from the man who is not living on it, but who has other means of living.

3784. Don't you think it would create a bad impression throughout the country if you were to expropriate tenant purchasers who purchased under the operation of the Land Act?—I would not be personally in favour of expropriation except it was a very large matter; I mean in the case of a man who was resident on the land and who was farming the land, if he was farming it in the ordinary sense, but if he was grazing it I don't know, but I might clip his wings perhaps a little if it did not interfere with what might be called amenities of the surroundings. There are some persons who might reasonably, and without any loss to themselves, give up part of the land they bought if the territory be very large.

3785. Mr. Burrell—What is the difference between a landlord and his tenant purchaser, supposing the

landlord is treating the land in the same way as the tenant purchaser is treating his?—There is no difference in my opinion.

3786. You don't draw any difference in the class?—I don't draw any difference in the class.

3787. If a landlord is farming his land, unless it is very big you would not disturb him either?—No; and the Act recognises that, because the landlord's demesne is supposed to be excluded.

3788. The Chairman—Suppose the landlord had got a lot of grass land in his possession, and was farming that would you propose compulsorily acquiring that gentleman's land?—Yes, but the landlords as a rule have a good deal of grass land which they let in grazing, and that, I think, might reasonably be expected to be given over.

3789. Is it usually let on the eleven months' system?—Yes.

3790. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL—There are three classes in possession of the grass lands, as far as I understand it. There is the landlord who buys under the operation of the Land Purchase Act his demesne and his home farm, getting an advance from the State up to the £20,000 limit. That is class 1. There are non-residential tenants, tenants who buy areas of grass lands under the operation of the Land Purchase Act and are graziers, and then there are the tenants who are residential and who have bought under the operation of the Land Purchase Act. I am anxious to know how you would deal with those three classes. Would you expropriate the landlord from any part of the home farm land or of his demesne which he has bought under the operation of the Land Purchase Act?—What might be called his demesne I would not interfere with, but as regards what you call his home farm, if the districts surrounding him are wretchedly poor, as they generally are, I think he would not have any great grievance if he was called on to surrender at a fair price what might be called part of the home farm.

3791. That is to say you would undo what has been done within the last three years?—I think it has not been done, because I think the Act of 1893 only contemplated the demesne.

3792. The demesne and home farm?—I thought the home farm could not be bought back.

3793. It was a great inducement to the landlords to sell, and it was a very great object, or it was stated to be a very great object of State to keep the landlords who had sold in the country? However, I am not in favour of expropriating them, though I am not much enamoured of them; but I thought it was only for the demesne that the State allowed the advance of £20,000 or one-third of the purchase money.

3794. So you regard in no way as sacrosanct every farm purchased under the Land Purchase Act?—No. I think they should be all treated alike.

3795. Would you be surprised to hear that it would create an extremely bad effect in the country generally if tenant purchasers were expropriated?—No doubt it will have a bad effect on the very small class who don't want to be interfered with, but with the healthy public opinion I don't think it will have a bad effect at all.

3796. As regards the basis upon which compulsion, if adopted, would be carried out, would you have regard to the basis of the land conference proposals, namely, that the landlord should be given his net income and a reasonable rate of interest given in addition as compensation for disturbance?—I am afraid I would not go the whole length. Of late years the net income of the landlord has been better than before for the simple reason that the tenants have been trying to pay punctually in the hope of having their land bought out.

3797. Might I ask you to develop that?—The tenants have been paying more punctually of late under the impression that they would soon be peasant proprietors, and if they were put out of their holdings they would lose a great deal now, and therefore they try to stick on to the land and try to pay punctually.

3798. Have rents been raised?—No, not raised, but they have been paid more punctually.

3799. That does not affect the matter, does it?—It does, because it affects the basis of his net income—you are talking of his gross income.

3800. No, the net income. The rental minus bad debts and cost of collection?—In the past the landlords lost a good deal on account of bad debts. The tenants did not pay as punctually as they do now. The net income was a good deal smaller then than it

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has been for some years past, especially since the Act of 1893, which has had a great effect on the small holder in making him hope one day to be an owner, and he will now make any sacrifice rather than fall into arrears, so that in practice where there were arrears before you have not those arrears now.

3921. Does that question of small holders or tenants arise in reference to grass farms?—No, but in reference to the question of the net income of the landlord.

3922. Net income from his grass farms?—I thought you were talking about his net income from his rental.

3923. I was talking of the acquisition of grass lands?—I believe that the grangers have been paying too much in the past in the hope that the State would advance the money to buy them out.

3924. To whom?—Yes; they have been paying too high a rent in the belief that they would be able one day to buy out the lands.

3925. If they were paying too high a rent would not the advance by the State to them be calculated with reference to that rent?—It may or may not.

3926. And consequently the granger is paying a high rent in order that he may be let in for a high price?—Grangers since 1820 have got possession of grass lands and have bought them out. The State has advanced the money. My contention is the State should not advance any money to grangers when the land is treated for the enlargement of small holdings. The grangers are generally the sturdiest people in the district. The granger has the hope of buying out his own farm along with the rest, and in consequence of that he is prepared to give a higher rent per year, because then he will get it at a much less rent when he buys it.

3927. He is prepared to pay a higher rent per year in order that he has claim to purchase may be recognised?—Quite so.

3928. In purchasing grass lands would you proceed upon the basis of the rent which the landlord receives or would you separate the landlords double interest, the interest of the occupier and the interest of the landlord over and above?—I would go on the value of the land and would not go on the rent that the granger is paying. I do not think it would be fair for the reason I have given to go on the rent which the granger was paying.

3929. Then you would go on the ground of the fair rent which the land would bring if it were converted into tillage?—Yes, or if you were to take Griffith's valuation as a rule and give a certain number of years' purchase on that valuation.

3930. You would by that means reduce the landlord's income very considerably, would you not?—In some cases you would. In other cases you would not.

3931. If the landlord had been in the habit of receiving, say, £500 from a grazing farm for ten years and that the valuation of that was £2500, as it would be, would you give the landlord a multiple of the £500 and not of the £500?—You are adding an inducement of twenty per cent. in the first place.

3932. We are coming to that?—Then I hold that where a granger has it for a great many years there is not such a difference between the valuation and the rents as you would suggest, and in any event when the State wants the estates—it is a thorny problem—they must look to the value of the land.

3933. But here you compare two things, the valuation and the rent which is paid. The valuation was fixed between the years 1845 and 1850 and the rent has gradually grown, and is in the majority of cases very considerably above the valuation. If you wanted to acquire the land compulsorily I understand you to say you would make the basis of compensation a valuation fixed more than half a century ago, and not the rent which has been paid in recent years?—I think it is admitted that the valuation of the grass lands is always pretty reasonable.

3934. The present rent you don't think would be a fair basis?—No.

3935. Would you be prepared to say that an estimate of what the land if turned into tillage could reasonably yield ought to be a fair basis for calculation?—Yes; I would be satisfied with that, and so would the tenants.

3936. The land being in the landlord's possession he would have the double interest, the tenant's interest and the landlord's interest?—Yes.

3937. Would you compensate him for both these separately?—Yes. I think you would be bound to

take into account the fact that he has the double interest.

3938. For the tenant's interests you would give him the ordinary price of from eighteen to twenty-five years' purchase, and for the landlord's interest you would give him something between ten and twelve years' purchase?—Oh, no, I would give him the average price before 1863 of grass land in the district, and I would give him a bonus of twenty per cent. besides.

3939. Leave the bonus for a moment. You would fix the price for compulsory acquisition on a rent which does not exist at all at the present time?—If a tribunal were set up in which both sides would have confidence I would suggest—

3940. I am coming to the tribunal. I assume that there would be a tribunal. I only want to know what is your basis for estimating the fair rent before you could place it before the tribunal?—The basis I would go on would be the value of the land.

3941. Which, as I understand, would not be the rent that is paid?—Not the rent that is paid.

3942. But the rent which you think ought to be paid?—Which ought to be paid. For instance, in some cases where lands were sold under the 49th section the grangers got the land the same as the other ordinary tenants, and those grangers throughout the country have been hoping that they will get similar terms.

3943. As regard to the bonus you propose that it should be twenty per cent.?—Yes.

3944. You know there is a sum of twelve millions given for bonuses?—Yes.

3945. So that if you were to give twenty per cent. for the compulsory purchase of grass lands in the West of Ireland you would be withdrawing it from landlords in the remaining parts of Ireland?—I think where landlords in Limerick are getting twenty-four and twenty-five years' purchase it appears to be a monstrous thing that the State should give them twelve per cent. of a bonus when the western problem is still unsolved. If the State gave four or five millions of the bonus before it is all gone Connaught would be settled.

3946. Whether twenty-four or twenty-five years' purchase is a fair price or not is a matter that depends on the character of the soil and the agreement between the landlord and the tenant. It is a perfectly voluntary transaction?—I think if the State is going to deal with the question in the west it should look at how it can be done with the least loss to themselves. There is a bonus voted of twelve millions, and I hold that the west is entitled, as up to the present it has got the least, to its share; but at the rate at which things have been going on it will be all gone, and the west will get nothing.

3947. Would it not occur to you that the problem in the west should be dealt with independently and specially, and that the landlords throughout the rest of Ireland should not be mulcted because you want to improve the condition of people in the west. They have not contributed to the depression in the west of Ireland?—My view is they have contributed.

3948. The landlords throughout the rest of Ireland?—Yes; the lands in the west of Ireland are being more highly rented than the lands in other places, and therefore to that extent they have contributed.

3949. Mr. Boyce.—What Sir Anthony asked was did you consider that the landlords in the rest of Ireland had contributed to the depression in the west?—I thought it was the landlords in the west of Ireland he said.

3950. Sir Anthony MacDonnell.—My point was this: if you have to relieve congestion in the west, in Connaught, you ought to direct your attention to that and adopt means which will not react injuriously upon persons in the rest of Ireland?—Quite right. I fully agree with that.

3951. Where the landlord is compulsorily expropriated don't you think he is entitled to compensation for disturbance?—Yes. To some extent.

3952. That is the rule when land is acquired by railway companies and other bodies. A certain percentage on the fair price which is fixed is allowed the landlord as compensation?—And in some cases they do not allow as much as landlords are expecting now, even for land for railways.

3953. But the principle was accepted?—Yes, and the twenty per cent. I suggest goes a long way to meet that principle.

3954. So that if there was compulsory expropriation you would accept the principle of some compensation?—Yes, I would accept the principle. No doubt it has

always been accepted, but I think the twenty per cent. bonus should more than compensate them for the compulsion.

3835. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you suggest that the State should pay the compensation for disturbance?—I would suggest that out of the twelve millions, before it is all gone, part of it should be applied to the congested districts. I am not speaking of the West alone, but I would say that twelve millions would solve congestion all over Ireland.

3836. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The bonus was given as an inducement to the landlords to sell?—I believe it was given principally as an inducement to western landlords.

3837. You may take it from me it was not. It was given as a general inducement to the landlords to sell with the object of working the Land Purchase Acts; so that in concentrating the bonus on the west of Ireland you will deprive landlords in the rest of Ireland of that inducement; what will tempt them elsewhere to do that?—The whole of Ireland recognizes that the western problem is a very special one, and if we are seeking to bring to an end what is a disgrace to civilization we must face it and deal with it.

3838. I am entirely with you, but the relief of congestion in the west ought not to be carried out at the expense of the tenants and landlords in the rest of Ireland?—I think the State that voted twelve millions as an inducement to landlords to sell has a perfect right to say that there is one portion of Ireland which needs special treatment, and that out of that twelve millions they will appropriate a certain amount to it.

3839. Would not that be breaking faith with the landlords in the rest of Ireland?—I don't think it would, because the landlords have not up to this accepted the inducement, and it is not to be held out for ever.

3840. Mr. KAVANAGH.—If you took away the bonus from the rest of Ireland would not that stop purchase at once in those parts of Ireland?—I think the landlord who gets twenty-three or twenty-four years' purchase should get no bonus. He is as well off as now.

3841. Even at twenty-four years' purchase landlords are only selling to bring in their present net income?—In some few instances that may be the case, but I think the net income has increased of late. Undoubtedly as regards the net income on most of the estates in Connaught in years past there was a great difference between that and the gross.

3842. We are talking of the whole of Ireland now. If you took away the bonus from the whole of the rest of Ireland you would stop purchase?—I don't mean to take it away entirely, but if it is allowed to go at the rate at which it has been going it will be all gone and the Connaught problem will be still there.

3843. The CHAIRMAN.—When you told the view that so many years' purchase brings in his present income to the landlord on what rate of interest do you calculate?—I think they ought to be very glad to get it at four per cent., and I don't personally see that the landlords' rights are any more secured than any other rights.

3844. Do you mean by that that you calculate the investment of the bulk sum at four per cent.?—Yes.

3845. Do you know of any trustee investment at four per cent.?—Every other day we are being told in the columns of some of the papers that there are safe securities at that rate.

3846. Have you ever heard of a trustee security at four per cent.?—Unfortunately I have not much experience myself.

The CHAIRMAN.—I am told that you cannot get trustee securities which will produce more than three and a quarter per cent.

Mr. BUTLER.—At present prices you can get some to return you more than three and a quarter per cent., but you cannot reckon on it, and you certainly cannot get any to return you four.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—You quoted savings on large sums more than three and a quarter per cent.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It must be remembered that Irish land is not a trustee security either.

The CHAIRMAN.—But the point is, when a landlord sells an estate under the Land Purchase Acts and that estate is encumbered that money has to be invested in a trustee security at three and a quarter or three and a half per cent., and it requires a far greater number of years' purchase than is generally supposed to return him his present income. Therefore when it is calculated at four per cent. it is entirely erroneous, because

there are very few landlords who are in the position of being able to invest at four per cent.

3847. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—But it is not necessary under recent legislation that the proceeds of sale should be invested in trustee securities; are there not other securities?—Yes, and as far as we read every day there are; but even if it is necessary to change the law I don't see why the rights of the landlord should be considered more than anybody else's. If he invests money in a bank and the share goes down he has to put up with the loss of it, and if he thinks because he is an Irish landlord he is to get a gilt-edged security I don't see why the State should secure him.

3848. Sir JOHN COOKE.—In connection with the history of the land question in Ireland have you present in your mind the operation of the Incumbered Estates Court Act of 1850?—Yes.

3849. Was not that an Act of Parliament having the deliberate object of inducing people to buy land in Ireland and to use it as a commercial commodity and to bring capital into the country?—I don't know what the object was, but they have not succeeded in that object.

3850. Are you aware that that was the object?—Yes, I read a little of the history of the Landed Estates Act.

3851. Was not the effect of that to cause land to pass out of the hands of the old landed class into the hands of Irishmen, who by their industry and thrift had acquired capital in trade business or professions?—I thought it was passed for the purpose of safeguarding the money of Irish landlords rather than for facilitating the sale to small men who made money.

3852. Are you aware of the fact that it did throw the land of Ireland in large quantities into the court, and the land was largely disposed of to those Irishmen who in trade business or professions had acquired money and then put it into land?—All I am aware of is that so far as I have read the land legislation at that time was meant to protect and safeguard the money of the landlords, and that it got the land into court for the purpose.

3853. Are you aware that the general effect was to bring land speculators, as they were called, that is people who had succeeded in trade business or the professions, into the possession of those lands in Ireland?—I am aware of it because the landlords had to part with their properties. The tenants were supposed to be extravagant, but the landlords were more so.

3854. Those properties changed hands and were acquired on the faith of the guarantee of Parliament, was not that so?—Yes.

3855. Do you not see that Parliament could not now, without stultifying itself, ignore the rights of ownership of land?—If that be so, and we apply that law, the landlord who bought in the Landed Estates Court, and paid a certain amount, say, £1,000, the first thing he did was to strip the land and then he raised the rents; I don't see why the law should now insist on that man getting a certain number of years' purchase on the rental that he himself fixed at the increased figure.

3856. I am not talking of the individual but of the policy of the Acts of Parliament; and you admit that that Act of Parliament was in effect to entice capital into Ireland?—Yes.

3857. Therefore it is obvious that Parliament must have that always in view in any legislation that takes place now. I want to ask you this: do you propose that an individual is to be under a pecuniary loss in carrying out a State policy without compensation by the State?—I will answer by saying if the State had that in view the Land Acts of 1831 and 1903 would never have been passed, because you would insist that the landlord should get his income out of the land, and therefore the land laws would not be changed, and the tenant would be paying as high a rent as he was paying before.

3858. I merely put my question to you and you don't exactly answer it, so I will pass away from it and come to ask you this. You have given us such information on the subject of grass lands that I presume you have studied the question of the relation of grass lands and their economic value to the whole of Ireland?—Yes.

3859. And you are aware that on those grass lands will be found grazing cattle from every part of Ireland?—Yes.

3860. Therefore the taking up of the grass lands and the dividing of them up takes away from Ireland

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generally certain grazing that I presume is necessary?
—Yes.

3850. Has it struck you that that opens a very big question of economic policy with regard to Ireland?—That question has been put in a good many shapes and forms in Ireland for a number of years past, and it has been represented that if these lands were broken up it would be a loss to the small farmers, if the big graziers have not the big grass farms to fatten; but my opinion is if the land is improved, as it is capable of improvement, that most of the people will be able to fatten, or if not to turn out really fat cattle at least to turn them out a good deal better than before.

3851. Then you disagree with Mr. Deane, who excluded the fattening lands from any prospective interference?—I don't disagree with almost anything in fact that Mr. Deane has said, but I say the danger he anticipates is not nearly so real as seems to be thought, because, first of all, I am confining myself entirely to Connemagh. I am not going outside now, and I have no doubt, as regards the rich lands of Meath and elsewhere, that there is no fear of interference there, and I do think you need not fear that it will have that effect.

3852. Then are we to interpret all your observations and your general description of the policy you urge as confined to Connemagh?—Generally.

3853. Then you don't mean that the Commissioners should apply them in a large sense to other parts of Ireland?—I think where similar conditions exist in other parts of Ireland it would be most desirable that they should be applied.

3854. Are we to take it that your views as to what ought to be done are exclusively confined to Connemagh and are not to be applied as a general principle to the rest of Ireland?—My opinion is that the first duty of the Commission is, if possible, to try to settle Connemagh. It is the one corner that requires special treatment. If the treatment be right I see no reason why you should not extend that treatment to similar districts in other parts of Ireland.

3855. In all you have been telling the Commission with reference to your past experience, you have in mind Connemagh; you are not prepared to go further than Connemagh?—I am prepared to go further, wherever there are similar conditions throughout Ireland.

3856. You said just now that the fair price of land is what the tenant can afford to give?—Yes, because there is no use in planting a man on land if he is not able to hold it. The Board must give the land at the value no matter how much they pay, and then I think that the fair price the landlord should expect would be the value of the land and its capability of supporting a family under ordinary conditions.

3857. If it is a matter of State policy it is not the landlord who should lose but the State?—As far as the tenant is concerned he might say how happy he could be with either were it other dear chance away. We would be satisfied if we got the land at a reasonable price, and we think the State should step in and compensate.

3858. If the State for State purposes and necessities takes any action that involves loss to somebody do you think that loss should fall upon an individual?—No; I think that the State should still, if possible, meet the loss, but I don't hold that a landlord's present rent from a grazier is to be taken as the basis of the number of years' purchase that should be given for land. I think if a landlord gets from a property constituted unimproved, which I take it will be representative of the State, if he gets a fair price for the land he has no grievance, and he has 20 per cent. of a bonus besides as the compensation for compulsion.

3859. You made a statement recently to the effect that the grass lands were rated very high in Griffith's Valuation; did I understand you to say that?—Yes; in part of Connemagh I think it has been considered on the whole that the valuation has been reasonable. I think that the grass lands of Connemagh have been reasonably valued. That is the general opinion as far as I could make out.

3860. You are quite aware that the value of everything connected with land was arrived at by taking the land as it was and estimating its produce under reasonable treatment, and then the value produce was regulated by a schedule of prices?—Yes.

3861. Have you ever had the curiosity, as you are so much interested in these grass land, to take the

prices then prevailing?—Yes; I read them, and would be willing to take the grass land at the value and the prices taking everything into account.

3862. Are you aware that these prices have been enormously inflated in the interval between the making of the valuation and now?—No, I don't think so. In some cases, in oats and better, I think the reduction has been very much.

3863. I am confining myself to grass lands. That is not a question of oats. I am confining myself to the four-footed beast and the produce of the four-footed beast, and I ask you are you aware that the prices in Griffith's so-called valuation as compared with now are very small indeed, and if you apply the same standard to those grass lands on the same schedule you will find an increase in rateable value?—You must take the whole thing, and especially if you are planting tenants upon it.

3864. I am talking of Griffiths and Griffith's grass lands, and I only want to get at whether you yourself, when you expressed the opinion that the grass lands were fairly rated, had read that anywhere for yourself?—Yes, I read it recently, and saw the basis of the valuation on which they worked, and I think the tenant farmers would be satisfied with as a fair basis of things as they were then; and on the part of the tenants I might state, as I stated a moment ago, I never met the tenant farmer in Ireland who was not anxious to buy at a fair price, and if he gets grass land he is willing to pay a fair price, for it, and if the basis of the valuation now be different, and if it be for the advantage of the landlord that the basis now will work out they will be satisfied with that basis.

3865. My object was merely in consequence of your speaking of the rateable value of grass lands as being practically a fair rent. Do you adhere to that?—Yes, I do, and I think most of the better class of landlords would. I know some landlords who would be willing to sell on that basis.

3866. I am taking a broad basis of market value and I would like to ask you whether you can give me an illustration of any grass lands of which you know the rent that is paid and the rateable valuation?—I don't like to give the names of landlords.

3867. I don't wish any names?—I know of one landlord who is receiving £5,000 or £6,000 for grass lands, and I know he is willing to accept twenty-four and a half years' purchase on the valuation.

3868. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—For the grass land?—For the grass land.

3869. And not for the whole estate?—Yes; he wishes to sell both.

3870. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—What is the rateable value of that land which produces £2,000 or £4,000 a year?—I could not tell what is the rateable value of each acre of that land, but I think that in the case of a landlord, taking him as he is, who has to submit to compulsion, and had to submit to it, whether he liked it or not, since the passing of the Act of 1881, there should be no more difficulty in deciding now what he is entitled to than there was in deciding what rent the tenant should pay or what he should get for any land required for a railway passing through his property.

3871. More you mention a case of a landlord ready to sell grass lands bringing in £5,000 or £6,000 a year for twenty-four years' purchase; what would be the position if he took twenty-four years' on the valuation?—That is what he has offered—on the valuation.

3872. Mr. BAILEY.—That is to say he is offering to take a great deal less than he is getting now?—There is not so much difference in his case I think. Of course I must say he has tenant land besides, but it would mean that, that it would come to about twenty-six and twenty-two.

3873. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Has he had second term rents fixed?—Yes, he had.

3874. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—It is a mixed transaction; it is an estate containing grass lands?—Not so mixed as might appear. Second term rents were fixed, and it would work out that in the offer of last he is offering to sell the second term judicial rents and grass land let at £3,000 or £4,000 a year at twenty-four or twenty-four and a half years' purchase of it on the valuation.

3875. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I just want to clear up to what I understood about this part of your evidence. You refer to the system of acquisition for

acquiring land for railways and other public works as a justification for the compulsory purchase of agricultural land for economic holdings?—Yes.

3880. Is not it a fact that all such arbitration rests on the principle that the owner of the property should be as no way injured by the transaction?—He is injured to that extent, that he is deprived of his land.

3887. Is not it a fact that all arbitration rests on the principle that the owner deprived of his property shall not be injured by the transaction?—Yes, I admit that; that is, that he gets fair compensation for the injury done.

3888. If the general welfare of the State requires the compulsory acquisition of a man's property, ought not the State see that he is not damaged; ought not the State itself, the transaction being for its benefit, to see that the parties, both buyer and seller, are not damaged?—Yes, I think it is fair. I don't want to sacrifice the landlord for the good of the tenant.

3889. Has not that always been the principle adopted in the compulsory purchase by the State from a private individual?—Yes, I think so.

3890. Do you not then think that the fair price of the landlord's interest in his land is such a sum as would leave him with the same income as he had previously received in the shape of rent?—I would not go so far to that extent, because, as I explained to Sir Antony, the graveners have for years past been paying more for the land than it was worth. It is not but they know well what they are doing, they were not paying the real value, but they were looking to the prospective value of acquiring the land themselves.

3891. From that speculative view of the tenant the landlord has profited?—He has.

3892. Why should the landlord be treated differently from any other class that the State has relations with?—I don't think they ought to be treated differently. They ought to be treated alike.

3893. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You would deal with the tenant-purchaser in the same way as you would deal with the landlord?—The very same.

3894. You would not think it fair to make the tenant-purchaser a loser by the transaction?—No.

3895. He should get what he makes out of it?—I think where the tenant-purchaser buys from the State and then the State steps in and says—"We gave you so much money to buy this land; we want the land now and will give you back the money," I don't think he would have very much grievance. I would apply the same principle to the landlord. I have no doubt that he should be sacrificed for the good of the public any more than the other man.

3896. If he happened to have bought in the Landed Estates Court, or something like that, you think he should get the same price back?—I think it ought to be taken into account, the amount he made by rent since he bought over and above the price.

3897. Sir ANTHONY MACDONELL.—What do you mean?—If a landlord bought for £1,000, and the first thing he did was to double the rent, and for twenty years he has been receiving double the former amount, that should be taken into account.

3898. You would go back to ancient history?—The landlords are very fond of ancient history when it suits them.

3899. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Suppose a landlord purchased in the Landed Estates Court a property of untenanted land which he had in his hands now, you would consider the man ought to be brought out compulsorily at a loss?—My answer to that is, he is losing already, because if the State has stepped in and said—"You bought at a rental of £300 a year, and we reduce it to £150 a year," his property is not so valuable now as when he bought it.

3900. I am talking of land in his own hands, which has never been tenanted, of untenanted land?—My argument would apply as strongly. If the lands of the tenant went down in value, the lands of the landlord cannot remain permanently of the same value. Therefore if the State stepped in on the one occasion, I don't see why it has not the right to step in on a second occasion and say, "We will give you the present value."

3901. The principle is the same. The landlord bought in the Landed Estates Court say, for £1,000

Would you think it fair to give him less than £1,000 now?—I think where the landlord bought untenanted land he should get what he paid for it if it is taken from him compulsorily. I think you would find few of this class however. They bought generally the tenanted portion and the untenanted together, and gave a bulk sum for both. But where the landlord bought in the Landed Estates Court and paid £50,000, and there was a rental of £2,000 a year, and the State stepped in and said, "This rental is too high; we will cut it down fifty per cent., to £1,000," I don't see why the landlord should get the £50,000 he paid for the property in the Landed Estates Court.

3902. You would say the tenant-purchaser ought not to be compelled to sell at a loss?—I think so.

3903. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In dealing with the question of compulsory purchase, you were asked about the compensation to the owner that is expected, and, if I recollect aright, you did not think it right that in every case he should be secured his net income?—That is my view.

3904. That is your view?—Yes, for the reasons that I gave you, that I did not think it represented the value, and I believe, as I said then, that a good many graveners for their own interest in the land were giving more per year than the land was worth.

3905. At the same time, it is your feeling that when one is expropriated he should be fully paid for the property that is taken from him?—Yes, that is my view; landlord or tenant, make no distinction between them in any case whether it is a tenant-purchaser or landlord.

3906. The question then, is how we are to ascertain the value of the property that is taken?—Yes.

3907. You would not consider that net income in recent years measures that value?—No.

3908. You consider that in recent years the net income is above the value of the land?—I do. I believe that in years previous to 1895, for untenanted land the net income would fairly represent the value, but since 1895 I don't think the net income represents to the same extent the value.

3909. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say not to the same extent; probably you mean to a greater extent?—Yes, but it is all the same; it does not represent the value.

3910. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—When you suggest that you would leave the amount of the compensation to an independent tribunal, you would have that tribunal look to the income from the land not only during the years that elapsed since the 1903 Act was passed, but also in preceding years?—Yes.

3911. And once a fair tribunal had determined what was the actual value of the property taken, it would be your view that the full price should be paid?—The full price should be paid to everybody, and everybody should be treated alike.

3912. Would it be some justification for the distinction you draw between net income during the past couple of years and previous net income, that the price paid for land has gone up very considerably since the Act of 1903?—Yes. I could quote you an instance, one instance, where it went up 100 per cent.

3913. With the same landlord?—Yes.

3914. Mr. BRYCE.—Grass land?—No.

3915. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I was taking the general question. In your experience of the working of the Congested Districts Board, has the price both of tenanted and untenanted land gone up?—Yes. We have proof of that; of course the statements are made in the reports.

3916. Is it a fact that the price of untenanted land has gone up more than the price of tenanted?—I think it has.

3917. Are you aware of this, that in the admirable Report of the Estates Commissioners, the increase in the price of tenanted land under the Act of 1903 is set down at forty per cent. during the past two or three years as compared with the preceding period of five years, and fifty per cent. as compared with the preceding period of two years?—Yes. I have read that statement; I have seen it in the report.

3918. Now, with reference to the hearing of purchase on solving the difficulty of congestion in the

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West of Ireland, is not it a serious consideration where the price of land rises so high that purchase is not an effective means of solving the question of congestion at all?—Yes, that is the great difficulty. If it increases as it has increased, I do not know what would become of the tenant-purchasers.

3018. You said a moment ago that you had in your mind an instance in which the price had risen very remarkably?—Yes. There is one landlord in my district who sold before 1903 for twelve and a half years' purchase, but since 1903—

3019. Mr. BARRY.—On what rent? Was it an old rent or a first term or second term rent?—It was an old rent.

3021. But not a judicial rent?—It was a leasehold, and very low, and it would be equivalent to nearly a second term rent. I believe it would be equivalent to a second term rent, and he sold at twelve and a half years' purchase, but the same landlord sold land, adjoining, of the same quality, since 1903, at twenty-one and a half years' purchase, with the twelve per cent. house, which is equivalent to twenty-four years' purchase.

3022. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Judicial rents?—Judicial rents.

3023. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have you heard in your experience of any property in which the tenants ten or twelve years ago were offered their farms on terms which they did not accept, and on which property since the Act of 1903 the same tenants have bought their farms for a price far in excess of the terms originally suggested?—Yes. I know there are cases where they refused offers in the past, never accepted them, and that they gave since more than the landlord asked at that time.

3024. Do you think in this case—or do you think can cases be ascertained in which the initial instalment of three and a quarter per cent. is now greater than the initial instalment then of four per cent. would have been?—Yes, I think so.

3025. Now, notwithstanding these answers of yours, with reference to the increased price of land, would you be in favour of compulsory powers by such a Board as the Congested Districts Board to buy out not only untenanted land, but also tenanted land?—Yes. I would be in favour of compulsion, believing that, without it, it will be only patchwork in the west.

3026. In other words, you seem to incline to the view that the Congested Districts Board or some such authority should have compulsory powers over tenanted and untenanted land throughout the west?—The Congested Districts Board ought to have compulsory powers over the congested districts to get any land necessary for the enlargement of holdings in the congested districts. That is the land they ought to have, and most people admit that, but I go further, and say there ought to be compulsion over the whole of Connacht.

3027. Bearing on that answer of yours, how would you get over the difficulty about the purchase of their farms by tenants in cases where the owner had been compulsorily expropriated?—Would you fix the rate of purchase for the tenants and say they had to buy, or would you exercise compulsory powers with such discretion as in ordinary cases not to buy until you first had ascertained that the tenants were willing to purchase on certain reasonable terms?—I believe in a big compulsory scheme. You must go at it head-on and treat tenants and landlords alike, being compulsion on both sides. No doubt it would be very satisfactory, and the Board, I think, have generally tried up to this to know beforehand the mind of the tenants and what they would think reasonable and would not like to go beyond that. But I think the tenants, as far as I know them, are all inclined to have the land at a fair price and are willing to have compulsion upon themselves as well as compulsion upon the landlords to sell.

3028. Yes. Is it a fact that under the Act of 1903 three-fourths of the tenants in certain cases can bring compulsion to bear on the other fourth?—Yes, that is the law.

3029. But all the same, as a matter of prudence in working out schemes, would not it be wise in the exercise of compulsory powers, to know the mind of the tenants before the purchase of tenanted land?—It

is very desirable not to come in contact with the feelings of the people. While sometimes you have to show firmness, I think it would be desirable that on all occasions you should have their sympathy and the popular feeling if possible.

3030. While allowing the tenants to have a voice in settling the price if they are to purchase their holdings you would not allow them alone to fix the price?—No, and I would treat both sides alike.

3031. Then on these estates compulsorily acquired would you in selling to the tenants insist on a reasonable price from them?—Yes, a reasonable price.

3032. Now if the functions of the Congested Districts Board were exercised over a wider area, that is, applied by the Board by scheduling or otherwise, and if they had to deal with lands in Ulster or Munster, would you consider like compulsory powers should be enjoyed by the Board both with regard to tenanted land and untenanted land?—Yes.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I beg your pardon. How can the Congested Districts Board buy tenanted land in Ulster or Munster?

3033. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Even now may they not buy?—Yes, if there be grazing land attached and if the grazing land be bought for the benefit of the congested districts.

3034. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The main point in such a case as this which the Congested Districts Board would consider is the purchase of untenanted land?—Yes, because they are concerned only with their own people, what they call their own people.

3035. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Suppose you find in Leitrim, in the very best part of Leitrim, a little nest of congestion, and if the Board or some other public body discharging its functions thought it right to plant the people of that little nest on new holdings on the surrounding untenanted area, would you think such powers as you have advocated for the Board in Connacht should be enjoyed by the Board for that purpose?—The very same rule ought to be applied to those districts as in Connacht. The poor fellows there are just as much in need of being looked after as the poor fellows in Connacht.

3036. I do not know whether it is right to ask you what your opinion is about the apportionment of duties between the Estates Commissioners on the one hand and the Congested Districts Board on the other, but perhaps you know enough of the work which has been so well done by the Estates Commissioners to be able to appreciate it?—Yes.

3037. Have you drawn in your own mind any line of demarcation of the functions in regard to land between the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board?—I believe that a body for the West of Ireland particularly—and I am confining my evidence generally to the West of Ireland—I believe until it is settled you must have a body dealing especially with it, because a body dealing with the rest of Ireland or all Ireland, I am afraid, will not be able to devote sufficient attention to the sore spot. And until you have that brought up to the level of the rest you must have somebody like the Congested Districts Board dealing with it.

3038. And, apart from area, would you discriminate between, on the one hand, converting the occupiers into owners, and on the other the slow and elaborate process of rectifying boundaries, re-striping holdings, enlarging holdings, and migration?—You see, there is no advantage to my mind that some of the tenants in the West of Ireland should buy and have his land just as he has it at present. When some English and Scotch members of Parliament were over they came to me and I brought them over a place in my parish where the man told them he had fifty patches. His neighbour, who heard him, said he had and a hundred, and it came out the man did not know how many patches he had. If that man buys his land and sticks to the same patches as before, he is bound to be always poor. Unless some body like the Board re-arrange the land, and strip the holdings, purchase will not do these people practically any good. It will do them some little good, but so little as to be infinitesimal, so the Board or any department must first re-arrange the holdings, next carry out improvement works, and, as I say, carry out what I believe most essential and most important, a large scheme of drainage. I am afraid that if the Estates Commissioners or a body like them operating all over Ireland will not be able to devote sufficient attention to

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the West, that the Western problem will be still unsolved.

3383. You think you require a distinct body for each of these distinct functions?—I do, my lord.

3384. Now with reference to the improvement works conducted by the Congested Districts Board on the Dillon estate and its migration schemes, do you think that, considering the perplexity of the work, the work of the Board has been unduly slow?—No. In fact it could not be faster. I believe that in some places the Board is condemned for not going faster because the people do not understand it. Now in Clare Island all the men were employed for all the time the Board were operating, and they could not go faster. On the Dillon estate they could not go faster because there were difficulties in the way, owing to the tenant or owing to the works being of that description that they could not be done in shorter time, and I think the people themselves, when they understand, are now satisfied, and the longer the Board continue the better satisfied they are, because they get employment and they see that the good is being done all the time. They do not object when they understand how the Board is working. They do not object to have it continue for some time longer. Of course at the same time it is very desirable, and, as you know, my lord, the Board have decided where there is to be no improvement on a man's holding it is to be sold at once after the property is purchased. If a man's holding is not to be interfered with he has to buy it out immediately, and it is only on the holdings where drains and alterations are to be made that delay occurs.

3385. You were here, I think, during most of Mr. Doran's evidence?—Yes, I was here two days, my lord.

3386. Do you not think although there were delays in voting estates in the Board that the amount of property vested before the 31st March in this year was unduly small?—Yes, I think so.

3387. Before the 31st March one-fourth of the property purchased was vested?—Yes.

3388. And all the same for the purposes of the Board it is most essential that voting should be done as quickly as possible?—I think that purchasing tenants expect that the Board will begin to operate as soon as possible, and they do not understand the delay that has occurred up to this. But it was not the fault of the Board as you know. In some cases it was two years—It took two years after the Board had agreed to buy a property before they began to operate there because the voting order was not made out and the legal advisers told them they could not lay out any money as they were not the legal owners.

3389. As regards your own parish, there has been great progress in your own parish?—Well, a little, my lord; some, I am glad to say.

3390. Would it be true to say that as far as the Congested Districts Board is concerned the works of improvement done in your parish were done before you became a member of the Board?—Well, it would be true to say that since I became a member of the Board I never got a shilling more than the parishes adjoining. Before I became a member of the Board they gave me a few hundred pounds to help to build—

3391. That was before you became a member of the Board?—Yes. I built some houses in the town for labourers, and some were foolish enough to think that myself, my lord, and Sir Antony, were soft enough to give me money for the purpose, whereas I borrowed the money from the Board of Works to build the houses. Some people perhaps who did not do very much themselves think that a good deal of money was spent in Mayo and Donegal, but in my case since I became a member of the Board my parish did not receive a shilling more than other parishes. At all events there was no softness, I am sorry to say. I had to look for the money elsewhere.

3392. You have now alluded to a question which, if I am not mistaken, is very important, for the progress of a public Department like the Congested Districts Board—the case of the tenants in small towns. Have you anything to say to the Commission in reference to their condition and the purchase by them of their holdings?—I think they should not be distinguished. Small towns—if you call them towns—they would be called villages in England, and bigger places would be called villages—should be sold to the

occupiers, I think there ought to be no distinction between their treatment and the treatment of agricultural tenants.

3393. Take the case of Ballaghaderreen. There are two classes of town tenants, if I mistake not, cases of tenants holding direct from the Congested Districts Board without any sub-letting, and other cases in which tenants of the Congested Districts Board, formerly of Lord Dillon, have sub-let to one or more sub-tenants. What is the difficulty in each of those cases?—Where the Board are dealing direct with the tenant there is no difficulty. There is some difficulty, no doubt, in buying the houses. The Treasury have some difficulty, and they had the same difficulty in Boyle, but as far as regards working recommendations in the future, I respectfully say there ought to be no distinction made as to purchase, and that tenants, small tenants in the towns, should get facilities for buying out their houses and their patches of land, and get the same facilities such as small farmers get.

3394. Why do you say that?—Do you think it is the policy of the State to advance public money to enable persons living in towns to acquire ownership of their houses?—Most of those have patches of land beside, and some of them have from half an acre to two or three acres.

3395. Would you say that an owner of such places is not in a position to sell on the same advantageous terms to his tenants if he is not able to sell small villages?—I think there would be a great feeling of dissatisfaction in the country, and a great feeling of disloyalty amongst the people.

3396. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are these patches of land attached to the houses?—Yes.

3397. Little back gardens?—In the past, since what is called the agitation began, the town tenants who did not benefit directly have helped the poor fellows who were agitating for their rights, and those men think now that in honour they are bound to see that they also will come in for some of the advantages of the Act of 1903.

3398. Mr. BRYCE.—Where are those patches you speak of?—Surrounding the towns. Everyone in the towns as a rule has some small quantity of land immediately adjoining the towns.

3399. Not back gardens?—No, not merely back gardens, but other patches of land.

3400. The CHAIRMAN.—In answer to Sir Francis Mowatt you rather gave the idea that you were referring to cases where they were actually adjoining the houses?—Sometimes not immediately adjoining; but sometimes they are. They have potato patches. They all as a rule have places for potatoes and cabbage and vegetables of all kinds, and it is very desirable in the small towns that they should have some gardens if possible, because they find it hard to make a living from the sale of provisions, and those little things enable them to support their family.

3401. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—They are shopkeepers, I presume?—Yes; but I am afraid the quantity they sell in the year is very small.

3402. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—There may or may not be a patch attached to these houses?—There may or may not.

3403. Lord Dillon could not be expected to sell to the Congested Districts Board unless the Board bought these three towns—Chesham, Ballaghaderreen, and Loughglin?—I think the tenants on the estate would consider they were selfish if they made terms with the landlord without trying to get the same terms for the others.

3404. Besides it would not be convenient for him to retain these small towns when the estate was being sold?—No. I think a landlord like Lord Dillon would want to get rid of all and did not want to be keeping a little spot here and there after dealing with a large tract outside.

3405. Does not the same apply to the Congested Districts Board? Would not it be more convenient for the Congested Districts Board to get these towns off its hands?—I think they ought to be enabled to dispose of the towns the same as the land outside.

3406. In other words, it seems that for the promotion of land purchase on a large scale there should be facilities to enable town tenants in villages and small towns of that class at all events to buy their holdings?—I believe things will not run smoothly otherwise.

3407. But have you any idea in your mind of how an estate can be sold by a public Department advancing money for these tenants?—Well, we were considering

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the matter, and I believe myself that the amount advanced on the houses in towns is just as secure, because the amount of the ground rent alone in small towns is very valuable, and the amount in itself that we require to be advanced is not very large.

3063. Could you devise, Father O'Hare, some scheme of joint security such as you yourself suggested on the Castletree estate?

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Do you mean joint security of town tenants or security of tenants on an estate generally for town tenants?

3064. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I mean whether you can group, whether you can join some small ones in the towns in groups and get, as you did in Ballaghaderreen, some person of substance to join in the guarantee.—Mr. Duran and myself saw some of the Ballaghaderreen tenants on this question and explained to them that there might be difficulties in getting the full advance the same as was done on the Castletree estate, and would not they among themselves do the same, that was simple and put the money in the bank. They all agreed, and the most prominent men in the town agreed to become security.

3065. Was that lately in Ballaghaderreen?—Yes.

3066. The CHAIRMAN.—Is that a personal security?—That would be a personal security to the bank, and a security the bank would gladly accept.

3067. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Security apart, is there law for selling under the Land Acts to these holders?—I believe there is. I have always tried to hold that the law made no distinction between towns and only small parcels of land.

3068. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Land sold under the Land Act should be mostly pastoral or agricultural?—That is one part of the Act, but in another part it talks of parcels of land, and as far as the security of the State would go without a parcel of risk the Act would be made to work by giving advances to the people in towns.

3069. Mr. HURCE.—There would be greater difficulties?—There might be.

3070. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—But I suppose the difficulty would be greater where there are sub-tenants because the middlemen should be bought out, but perhaps it would be better to ask the subholder that question?—That is a big question—sub-tenants. That would require special consideration and treatment.

3071. With reference to the answer which you gave earlier in the day about landlords in Ireland doing nothing for their tenants I take it that your complaint dealt with a period anterior to the recent land legislation?—So I explained, my lord. I began my statement by referring to the state of things that existed before 1879, before the Land Act came in.

3072. Your idea was that income from land ought to be made do a little more to fertilise the soil?—Yes.

3073. You consider that the proper relation between landlord and tenant puts upon the landowner an obligation to do something to encourage drainage and agricultural stores and breeds of cattle and better housing among his tenants?—I think as a citizen of the country, as a public man receiving a large amount of money from the people, he ought to take more interest in them than he does.

3074. Supposing that recent legislation is taken as a reason why that kind of programme is one that we can never hope to see carried out would not the inference be, then, that the sooner the dual ownership is terminated the better?—I think there is no other way, as the landlord is not willing to do anything and wants to do, or professes to do, nothing except to get the rent. I think the sooner he disappears the better it will be for the public at large.

3075. Sir JOHN O'CONNOR.—You used the expression "public man" as applicable to a landlord—do you consider him a more public man than anybody else?—He is not connected with the State, of course; he is not a public servant, of course, in a sense; but he is a public man in the sense that he is a little raised above the class of men he lives amongst, and that he constantly attracts more public notice in that way.

3076. Do you mean to say that if a shopkeeper buys a little land and becomes a landlord that he considers himself more a public man than his neighbour? I can tell you he does so.

3077. Mr. HURCE.—I want to return to an answer you gave earlier with regard to the expropriation of landlords who had bought demesnes and at

the same time had a certain amount of land in hand, which they were either tilling or using as graziers. You said that you thought you would not leave them anything beyond the demesne; I think you may have stated it rather badly; don't you think it would be an advantage in case a landlord was remaining there with a demesne that he should also have some work to do which would give him a common interest with the rest of the inhabitants so as to make him a more useful member of society?—If what is called the home farm were necessary for that purpose I would still hold that the people adjoining the home farm would have a right to export from the State that they would get some of it. But if a man were living on a small demesne, and his demesne were only very small, I think then that it might not be fair to deprive him of the home farm.

3078. I was thinking of the thing as a thing that would be for the benefit of the community at large that any man who was living at that place should have something to do so as to give him a common interest with the rest of the people of Ireland?—Yes.

3079. You agree that that would be a good thing?—I agree that that would be very desirable.

3080. Now with regard to the ascertaining from tenants before an estate was purchased by the Board what price they would give on the resale, may I ask whether you have any experience of what happened in the cases where the Board has purchased, in the case of the Dillon estate, for instance, was an agreement previously made with the tenants before as to what price they were going to give?—Not on the Dillon estate, because we knew the price offered on the Dillon estate was not extravagant, we knew it was a reasonable price, that the tenants would gladly accept, but I know there were several instances where, beforehand—in fact as a general rule—we tried always to ascertain what the tenants would consider a reasonable price, and then we were more or less influenced by that, not entirely, but at the same time it was some guide to us as to the offer we made afterwards to the landlord if we found there was not so much between the landlord's demand and what the tenants would accept we were on safe ground then, but if we found the tenants were not prepared to give anything like what the landlord asked we naturally would not like to come to an agreement with him.

3081. With regard to the point which Sir John Colclough put to you about the difference between Meath and other fattening lands, I think Mr. Duran, in his evidence, distinguished between the full fattening lands and the half fattening lands?—He did.

3082. And that is a distinction which you agree to?—Yes.

3083. Now, you said with regard to the value of the grass lands, you would think anything more than Griffith's valuation should not be given; do you, on consideration, think that that is a fair thing, considering the difference in the scheduled values of produce since the time of Griffith's Valuation?—I think that that would be fair, to take every kind of schedule that you like that all the landlords would accept as the present fair value as things go of grass lands and the tenants would be satisfied to give a fair price.

3084. How can you possibly discover without going to a tribunal what is a fair rent, without having reference to what the landlord is getting at the present moment?—And you won't be able to distinguish it then; the tribunal that will be set up will have to see the land themselves and will have to decide the value, because the landlord asks thirty years' purchase, but they won't blindly give it; they will have to go on the land and see the value of the land.

3085. You are aware that Mr. Duran said that the value of these half-fattening lands, say in Roscommon, would be larger for tillage than it is for pasture?—Yes; he maintains, and so do I, that five-sixths of the lands of Ireland will produce more under proper treatment by the tenants than under grazing.

3086. Won't your tribunal be fit to take that into consideration, and won't it raise the price more than you think?—No; I don't think it will; the tribunal will have to take everything into account, as it should, and let the landlord get a fair price.

3087. Now, with regard to the town tenants, do you not think if the estate improves, as you believe the agricultural portion of the estate purchased by the Board will improve, that necessarily the security

of land occupied by the town tenants must improve also?—Yes.

3928. I mean security of that land cannot fall in the middle of the improving security surrounding it?—Yes, every year in their case adds to the security.

3929. Every improvement in the position of the agricultural tenants?—And every year.

3931. Therefore that does not seem to you to be a point of any difficulty at all?—Of course there is this difference that the houses deteriorate while the land improves, but there is that difference between the land and the houses in town, the payment is the same in both instances, and each payment reduces the principal sum; but what we had decided at the Board practically was on a scheme that would secure the buyer or secure anybody against loss by securing that the houses should be kept in a certain state of repair.

3932. That would be all that would be necessary according to your view?—Yes.

3933. With regard to what you said about the necessity for maintaining the Congested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners separately, supposing that the staff of either the one or the other of these two organizations were increased to a certain extent; supposing the Estates Commissioners were fortified by all the staff and apparatus of the Congested Districts Board, and were given such increase in their own staff and such superior organization as might be necessary to deal with the problem, what objection would there be to handling over the whole of the business to one body?—There is this difference, that, as I have stated, the Estates Commissioners are operating all over Ireland, it is supposed, and they won't be able to devote so much attention to the same spot.

3934. But if the staff is proportionately increased?—Even so the staff will have to take directions from the land.

3935. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—If there be a section of the Estates Commissioner's Office appointed for the special purpose of dealing with congestion under a special and additional Estates Commissioner?—Then you would have the Board, as it is practically, call it by any name you like, you would have the Board.

3936. The CHAIRMAN.—I don't want to interrupt you Father O'Hara, but when you talk about the Board in this connection what you mean is really the Land Department of the Board under their Inspector, Mr. Doran?—We are discussing the land alone at present.

3937. Therefore, when Mr. Bryce suggested handing over these works to the Estates Commissioners, I take it what he has in view is handing over the Land Department of the Board as it is now to the Estates Commissioners?—That is what I understood.

3938. Why do you think they would be occupied with other portions of Ireland?—Naturally enough when they are working over a larger sphere, over thirty-two counties instead of eight they must devote part of their attention to the other places.

3939. There is no question that they should devote their attention to thirty-two counties instead of eight; taking Connaght for instance, you propose to schedule Connaght?—Yes.

4000. In other words you propose to confine the Land Improvement operations to Connaght; you would hand over, in that case, the Land Department of the Congested Districts Board to the Estates Commissioners for the purpose of working Connaght, not outside Connaght?

4001. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—But don't you require the Board as well as the paid officials to work these particular operations?—I understood from the question of Sir Anthony, that even in that event they contemplated this would be a sort of branch of the other.

4002. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Would there not be a great advantage in having one body dealing with the acquisition and purchase of land all over Ireland; you admit that there is a disadvantage in having two bodies dealing with the same object?—There is; there should be but one in Connaght.

4003. Is not the fact that the Estates Commissioners deal with the purchase of land all over Ireland an indication that they are the body to whom should be committed the work of buying land in Connaght as far as that is concerned?—I don't think so; I think Connaght requires special treatment.

4004. The treatment is a different thing; it comes

afterwards?—You require a body that will devote itself to that special treatment.

4005. The supposition is that there is a section of the Estates Commissioners Office formed and constituted for the special treatment you mention?—Of course, if you call the Board a section. The Board on the whole has given great satisfaction to the public; no doubt some complaints have been made, but, with the funds at their disposal, and considering the difficulties they have had to contend with—

4006. That is not the question?—I was going to answer then and say that considering the people have confidence in that Board I think it would be a pity that they should, at this hour of the day, be abolished, and their work given over to another body.

4007. The CHAIRMAN.—What difference do you contemplate would take place if the Land Department of the Board was handed over to the Estates Commissioners to do exactly the same work they are doing now; in what way do you imagine the popularity of their work would suffer?—There is no doubt they are comparing one with the other, and up to this they have not done any similar work; they have not come down to the work of the Board up to this in stripping land and re-arranging rural holdings.

4008. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Not to the same extent, but to some extent?—To a very small extent.

4009. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Suppose they could do it, and had the whole set of the officials of the Congested Districts Board, would they all the same require a Board like the Congested Districts Board to work these special operations in the localities?—What I am afraid—

4010. My question is this, apart from paid officials altogether, besides paid officials, do you require an independent Board like the Congested Districts Board to carry out the stripping of holdings, the migration of the population, and the enlargement of the holdings?—That is my view, my Lord, and I was going to state that a paid body of officials who would be operating all over Ireland would not have the same confidence of the people that the Board has had up to this.

4011. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—In what way does the Board, as at present constituted, interfere in the slightest way with the operations his lordship has indicated?—Of course they lay down that all their officials have to submit to their schemes, they are brought before the Board and approved of by the Board.

4012. Are there schemes of stripping, migration, and so on, brought before the Board and approved of by the Board?—Certainly, every act of the kind Mr. Doran submits, and he says that he has taken so much from one man and given so much to another man, and so on, he brings it before the Board and shows how it would work out.

4013. The CHAIRMAN.—What he has done or proposes to do so?—He proposes to do so.

4014. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is it not the custom that when an estate is bought in which the holdings are greatly intermingled, in rural and otherwise, that Mr. Doran takes the thing in hand and carries it out to the best of his judgment, the changes necessary to produce consolidation of holdings, and so on, and then reports to the Board the final result; but have the Board the least power of interference or direction in connection with what Mr. Doran has done?—Of course they have the power.

4015. Of course they have the power, but I venture to say they do not exercise it?—They seldom exercise it because of the confidence they have in him.

4016. The work I venture to suggest to you is done altogether by Mr. Doran, and it is not possible for a Board sitting once in a month in Dublin to interfere with details?—All I know is that in every case up to this, Mr. Doran first goes over the land, he reports to the Board, and gives them all the information about the valuation, the rent, and the arrears.

4017. Previous to purchase?—Previous to purchase; he then gives a sort of general scheme to give the Board an idea of what would be required to be done and the money to be expended, the number of holdings that were economic, the number that were stripped, and the number that wanted to be re-arranged, that comes before the Board, and the Board then either modify, change, or alter.

4018. I suggest to you that they have the power of doing it, but for the last three years they never have done it in a single instance?

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4019. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you recollect that before the last three years, Mr. Doran, on more than one occasion, came before the Board and said, "These are difficult cases down in the country that with all my experience I cannot adjust, and will such and such a member come and help me?"—I know I myself was asked to go, and other members were asked to go, as their presence there would have a good effect in reconciling certain people.

4020. Mr. BRYCE.—Because they were members of the Board, not on account of their personal qualities?—On account of their personal qualities as members of the Board.

4021. How do you know that?—You could not separate them.

4022. Supposing it had not been Father O'Hara, but simply a member of the Congested Districts Board, do you think it would have been same thing?—No doubt the men that would be asked to go should be men who knew the people pretty intimately.

4023. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The two things should be combined?—The two things should be combined.

4024. Mr. BRYCE.—Do you suggest you are going to have a Board which shall have upon it a man of influence in every particular part of Ireland in which you are going to deal with the question?—No, but what I recommend is, that we should have a Board of representative people.

4025. The CHAIRMAN.—Elector?—Well, to some extent, yes. I think it would secure more confidence than if it were nominated; a nominated Board, no doubt, might have some advantages, but I think at the present day it would be well to have it more representative.

4026. Sir J. CROWE.—Do you think that the present Board loses anything in power or force by the fact that it is nominated and not elected?—I do, yes; my view is that it would have more power if it was more representative, and without some election it would not be fully representative.

4027. Don't you think the present Board owes some of its power and force to the fact that it is non-political and includes men of all parties?—No doubt.

4028. Can you conceive an elected Board that would do the work of the Congested Districts Board without embarking in some local and political jealousies?—That is what I say, but it is the spirit of the age that we want to have representative bodies if possible in everything that concerns the people.

4029. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Representatives of what?—Of the people.

4030. That is not representative of a particular district or county, but representative of the people generally?—Yes.

4031. How could such a person be selected?—He could be selected by the County Council. I mean representative of districts where the Board is operating.

4032. The CHAIRMAN.—Before we get to your views upon what the constitution of the Board should be, I should just like to try to make a little clearer your answer to Sir Antony with regard to the practice of the Board in connection with Mr. Doran's proposals, so far as the interference in detail is concerned. Can you tell me how often or whether it is of frequent occurrence, that the Board actually interfere in the detailed arrangements or proposals put before them by Mr. Doran with regard to the striping and improvement of land?—I think the Board have such confidence in Mr. Doran, and know he is so competent, that they have very little fear that there will be any mistakes made, and very seldom indeed do they ever interfere, but he first puts before them the scheme.

4033. What happens is this, that Mr. Doran puts before you a scheme, and you have such confidence in Mr. Doran, you have had so many proofs of his ability to arrange these things, that as a matter of fact, in practice you very seldom alter his proposals?—Very seldom, and when he has them all done he brings them up before the Board and says—"That is the best I can do."

4034. And the only interference that as a matter of practice takes place is that if Mr. Doran gets into a difficulty he may ask a member of the Board that he thinks has influence to come down to help him to settle a local difficulty?—Yes.

4035. And if Mr. Doran and his staff have been so successful in the past that you have not found it necessary to alter his proposals, why do you contemplate that there would be any difficulty if Mr. Doran and his staff were handed over to the Estates Commissioners?—As I stated, because they would be operating all over Ireland, and would not be able to devote enough attention to the district that requires it most.

4036. It has not been necessary even for you to devote attention to it, because Mr. Doran has been so successful that he has been able to do the work?—Yes; but I have said that the schemes are always submitted beforehand.

4037. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is it known in the country that Mr. Doran does not stand by himself, but that his schemes have the backing of the Board?—It is known in the country that there are men on the Board—in fact all the Board—that the people have confidence in.

4038. That is to say, even when the Board has in its way modified Mr. Doran's scheme it is known in the country that the scheme of Mr. Doran is the scheme of the Board, and that is the strength of Mr. Doran?—Yes.

4039. The CHAIRMAN.—So far as the other point is concerned, supposing this work was handed over to the Estates Commissioners and Mr. Doran got into a difficulty in the locality, do you see any reason why he should not ask you, not as a member of the Board, but as the Parish Priest to help him in settling the difficulty?—I think my interference would be supposed to be out of place; it would not be called for if I was no longer a member of the Board.

4040. Does Mr. Doran invariably when he gets into a difficulty of that kind now, does he invariably appeal to a member of the Board?—Does it ever happen that he appeals to a person of influence in the locality who does not happen to be a member of the Board?—I think Mr. Doran appeals to all sides, and I think it right to say that he very seldom has need to appeal. The people of the district have a great deal of confidence in him and know he is thoroughly competent, and unobscured when he says the final word they are generally satisfied.

4041. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I quite agree that is the case in Mayo. In these conditions exist in Donegal and Kerry and other counties in which the Congested Districts Board operates, but as which Mr. Doran is not so well known?—Well, of course, until a man is known he cannot be supposed to have the confidence of the people to the same extent.

4042. If you had a great organisation like the Estates Commissioners you might have Mr. Doran in Mayo and as near an approach to Mr. Doran as you can find in Donegal and Kerry?—Yes, might.

4043. That would be an advantage?—I don't think it would. My idea is that the western problem is a special one, and it would be better if Mr. Doran devoted his attention to Connaught especially and have his staff, who are pretty well trained now, operate there.

4044. Granting that, assuming that the Estates Commissioners with their establishment and their personal property expended to meet the circumstances of the case were to take over Mr. Doran and his staff and do the work which Mr. Doran is now doing through him, would it be an advantage to have local committees constituted in each county of influential men for the purpose of advising the Estates Commissioners or what other body might be created?—If the Board be abolished I believe it would not be for the advantage of the district. I believe it would be better for the West that the Board would be allowed to operate. It should get more money and more power. I believe if the Board were abolished or amalgamated, it would be well to have in each county some body representative of the people who would co-operate with that body or branch of the Department that would take over the Board's work.

4045. If such a thing were done and such a body created would it be merely an administrative device for obtaining popular advice?—I don't know about Advisory Committees. I am afraid if they have not some little power they won't mind very much. If they have no power beyond giving advice I am afraid they won't be likely to act.

4046. Mr. KAVANAGH.—If the Land Purchase Department were taken from the Congested Districts

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Board and given to the Estates Commissioners and the agricultural improvements looked after by the Agricultural Department, what would remain for the Congested Districts Board to do?—The work of the land is undoubtedly the principal part of the Board's work; they have industries and fisheries and general improvements.

4047. Would there be sufficient work left for the Board or would the taking away of the Land Purchase Department mean the abolition of the Congested Districts Board?—It would in my opinion; as you take away the land work from the Board you might as well abolish the Board.

4048. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Notwithstanding what has been said regarding the necessity for industries on the coast fringes and the central areas, that has been spoken of?—If the Estates Commissioners are going to operate all over Ireland and take over everything I think they would be as well, or even better, able to take that over also.

4049. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What would become of the fisheries then?—That is what I say; if the Estates Commissioners undertake to manage the land in congested districts why not undertake the fisheries and the industries as well. What I hold is that the Board was established for, and got special funds for, special districts and for special people and for special objects.

4050. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Not including land purchases?—At first it was not clear, but afterwards it was recognised that it was the most important part of the Board's work. What I hold is would you bring these districts up to the level of the rest of Ireland they require special treatment by a special body who would get special funds for that special purpose.

4051. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—Do the people generally in the districts where Mr. Doran operates regard him as a Government official?—I don't think they do, I am glad to say.

4052. If he were transferred to the Estates Commissioners he would become a Government official?—That is so.

4053. Do you think that as a Government official he would have the power for good that he has?—I think so; he was looked upon as a Government official he would be looked upon with suspicion.

4054. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You are quite certain Mr. Doran is not looked upon as a Government official?—No; in the congested districts they look upon him as an officer of the Board, and they look upon the Board not as a Government Department. They say they are the one body in Ireland independent of the Government.

4055. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—You are satisfied with the Board as it is?—I would prefer it to be a little more representative.

4056. For actual practical work are you satisfied with the Board as it is?—I am.

4057. For working the Act in the Congested Districts are you satisfied with the Board as it is?—I am not fully satisfied; I would wish to see a few more representative members upon it.

4058. Do you think the present Board has failed?—No; but I think it might do more good if it had more representative men on it. I think you will find the Board for its funds and considering its difficulties did as much as people could expect; and as a rule people are satisfied the Board did good work; and if it would get more funds and more power, the people are satisfied that it is on right lines.

4059. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You stated you would like to exclude the Estates Commissioners from operating in Connacht at all?—I would.

4060. And you would take over the purchase in Connacht of all property, even non-congested estates?—Yes; I think they should not be allowed into Connacht at all. I would keep them to the rest of Ireland.

4061. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Has it occurred to you that the Congested Districts Board is doing in all cases work that falls to other Departments—that is, in the sphere of other Departments?—I don't know what other Departments.

4062. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The Agricultural Department?—Similar work, but somewhat different.

4063. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Can you tell me one function it performs which there is not some body already existing in Ireland to do?—We have so many bodies that it would be very hard to discover anything done by one body that some other body was not doing.

Personally I have no desire to cling to the position if there was a national body of some kind representative of the people appointed. I have no desire to continue, but I do hold that the Board should not be amalgamated or abolished until some national body representative of the people would take its place. That is my view.

4064. Your idea is the reason for its being there still exists?—It still exists, and it would take them a great many years before they accomplish the work that is before them. It is a great work; it is a work they are doing pretty well and pretty unselfishly, and if they get compulsory powers to buy at a fair price, and if they get more funds, I think you will find in some years that Connacht won't look so bleak or so dreary as it does.

4065. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I asked Mr. Doran whether, in his opinion, what the Congested Districts required was more expert treatment, more differential treatment, more detailed treatment, more sympathetic treatment and more expenditure of money than any system of administration under the Agricultural Department methods and County Council Committees could supply—do you agree with that?—Yes, I agree with that. I agree it would require special treatment, and the conditions that exist are exactly the same as they were when the Board was established.

4066. Therefore if there was a division of labour in the splitting up of the Congested Districts Board's work between the two Departments it would be essential that the agricultural and the industrial part of the work should be done in a special manner not now provided for by the rules of the Agricultural Department?—That is what I have stated, that even if the Board were abolished to-morrow, and if the Estates Commissioners take over the work of the Board there must be some body like the Congested Districts Board with power and funds to deal with the congested districts.

4067. In a special way?—In a special way.

4068. Mr. BRYCE.—After that rather long digression, which I am not sorry to have started, because it has produced a great deal of interesting information from you, I want to ask you as to your last statement, that "unless the Board have grass lands for the enlargement of small holdings or migration." With regard to migration, Mr. Doran said he did not think there was any chance of migration from the first of the zones, that which is called "A"—do you agree with Mr. Doran there will be a chance eventually of migration, at all events from the central district of Connacht, which is called "C," as well as from what you may call the inside district, which is called "B." Mr. Doran called them "A," "B," and "C"—I believe in the course of time, even in what he calls "A" district, even there when they see how well others have done by migration, even there they will be ready to migrate. I know in my parish at present that four people—and I am astonished—four people came to me and asked me would they apply for holdings elsewhere, and I told them they would be great fools if they did not try to go.

4069. The CHAIRMAN.—Are you in district "C"?—I am in "C."

4070. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you say four people do you mean four families?—Yes. My view is the poorer a man is the harder it is to get him to move to a more comfortable place.

4071. Mr. BRYCE.—Mr. Doran said, on the other hand, that the better off a man was the more difficult it was to get him to move, and that he had failed to get any of the better classes of tenants to migrate?—Our record shows that we got the best class of men—that we gave over some domains to the best class of men who migrated and who gave up the holdings they had.

4072. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—They were extensive men, and you gave them very much better holdings?—I know for a fact the poorer a man is the more difficult it is to get that man to move. Mr. Doran in one of his reports states there is great difficulty in getting a man who is in the habit of paying 22 rent to undertake to pay 410.

4073. Mr. BRYCE.—That is quite so, because he is afraid. But still Mr. Doran did say that in the actual cases of migrants which he had to manage, he

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had almost always to take an unsatisfactory class of tenant, because he could not get the man who was better off to give up the land that he had?—You may take it from me that the poorer a man is the harder it is to get him to go. But in the course of a few years, when that man finds that his neighbours who went away did well, and when he comes to visit them and sees that they are in comfort, and that he himself is in the same condition as before, that man would like to go and join them. And even along the coast, I believe even there we will have plenty of people willing to migrate; but I don't think there will be any land for them to migrate to.

4074. But you do agree with Mr. Deenan that in the course of time, when the knowledge of the success of those who have migrated extends, the prejudice at present existing against migration will gradually disappear?—It will gradually disappear, and it is disappearing already.

4075. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It will gradually disappear?—Yes.

4076. But in the meantime the land to which they might be migrated will have disappeared also?—Unless the Board get power to buy it up. That is my view. Unless the Board be allowed to buy the land, it will be gone, and there will be no land to give them when they are willing to go.

4077. The CHAIRMAN.—You say in your opinion the land work of the Board, the purchase and improvement of estates, is the principal work?—That is the principal work. And I may also remark that you ought to make out of the land as much as it can yield, and that you ought in the first instance to direct your attention to improving the land after the land is acquired by the people.

4078. I think you said if the land operations of the Board were taken away you did not think there would be enough work left for the Board to do?—I don't think there would.

4079. If that be so, may I ask why that has not been the policy of the Board for the last five or six years?—A comparison of the estimated expenditure of the fixed income of the Board this year and similar figures in some previous years seem to suggest a rather different point of view from what you said as now. I have first of all got the expenditure of the fixed income for 1901-2. At that time your income was £20,000 a year less than it is now. You had £65,250, but in that year you spent out of fixed income £20,252 on the improvement of estates, and the estimate for the year 1906-7 out of fixed income is only £11,333.—That is all we can afford to spend.

4080. That is only £1,000 more than you spent in 1901-2, and since that time your income has been absolutely increased by £25,000, and through the savings effected by the transfer of your agricultural operations to the new Department you have had, roughly speaking, another £8,000 set free?—Yes.

4081. If, therefore, you had thought that the improvement of estates in the chief work of the Board, why, during the last four or five years, when the fixed income available has been increased by £33,000, have you not voted more of that increase to the improvement of estates and less to all the other different things to which it was given?—The other things were so general, and they were works that demanded attention. Take, for instance, the Parish Committee.

4082. The expenditure on them actually increased 200 per cent. I—I hope they will be increased still more, because I think they are admitted to be one of the best things the Board has undertaken, and the thing in which they have got the best value for the money expended on them. Then there were the fisheries, the industries, and the other matters. We could not deprive them; we tried to cut our cloth according to our measure.

4083. That is exactly what you do not seem to have done as far as land purchase is concerned. So far as I can ascertain, the expenditure on the subsidies to steamer service increased 56 per cent. The cost of the Grosvenor increased 30 per cent; administrative charges, 50 per cent; industries, 100 per cent; ports and roads, 100 per cent. The expenditure of Parish Committees increased 200 per cent; and the smallest increase is the increase of 10 per cent. on land improvement?—It comes to this, whether the Board should curtail the amounts they

are giving to these things—they do not like to do it—and give more to the land; or else allow the others to go on just the same as in the past.

4084. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Was there some difficulty also on the ground that the land was not coming into the hands of the Board with sufficient rapidity to improve it?—That was the difficulty the Board had to meet. Personally my desire has been, so long as I have been a member of the Board, to get as much as I could for the land. But, unfortunately, there were a number of others who thought they could not deprive these others of what they were entitled to.

4085. Was there much good in allocating money to the improvement of estates when the estates were not coming into their hands?—The estates were not coming into their hands before 1903 rapidly.

4086. The CHAIRMAN.—Since 1903?

4086a. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Since 1903 they were not being voted in the Board with sufficient rapidity?—Yes.

4087. The CHAIRMAN.—The £20,000 which you got was under the Act of 1903?—Yes.

4088. Therefore the increase of your income was concurrent with the increased power of acquiring land?—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN.—If you had chosen you might have devoted a considerable amount of these increased funds to the improvement operations, and thereby might have avoided the financial difficulty in which you are now?

4089. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is not it the fact that the financial difficulty as regards the improvement of land mainly begins now?—Up to this it is the fact that the financial difficulty did not so much exist, in so far as the land was concerned that came into our hands. We were able to pay our way up to this. We were able to deal with the land and to lose a certain amount of money, and pay our way.

4090. Is it a fact that the staff has been greatly increased in recent years with the object of conducting operations on a much larger scale; and now the time has arrived when you would require a much larger sum to expend on the improvement of estates?—I believe I am correct in saying that the staff could do a great deal more work. It could deal with a great deal more land. We were given to understand that under the Act of 1903 the pace would be accelerated, and now we don't see any tendency in that direction.

4091. Mr. KAVANAGH.—How much of your income is devoted to land purchase?—Lord Dudley has the figures, from which he has just read, and you have the amount there.

4092. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is not it this way, that the amount of £11,000, which the Chairman has mentioned, is the amount which is available from the fixed income of the Board?—Yes.

4093. Hitherto the amount available from the fixed income of the Board was supplemented by the various windfalls which they received?—Yes.

4094. Which enabled us to expend a considerable sum on estate improvement?—Yes.

4095. It now comes to pass that these windfalls have ceased, and we are brought down to the £11,000 for this work; and consequently there is the deadlock?—Yes.

4096. The CHAIRMAN.—That is not quite my point. The windfalls are things totally apart. As I understand it, the windfalls that you are now getting back is money you originally had to spend, and money which comes from profit on stock transactions. You have used these windfalls mainly if not entirely on land improvement; but that does not alter the fact of their being windfalls, nor the fact that of the only fund which you could count on as available in future years you devoted the greater portion to grants towards Parish Committees, ports, roads, and industries, and have given only a comparatively small sum to land improvement in comparison with the money that you have devoted to these other subjects?—I feel the full force of what you say, and thoroughly agree with you.

4097. That is so?—Yes.

4098. And that fact is not affected in the least by the windfalls to which Sir Anthony refers?—No. From your point of view you say correctly that the Board got an increased income, and out of that increased income it did not give as much towards the improvement and

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re-arrangement of holdings as you would think it ought, if it thought that the land was its principal work.

4109. Does not that go to show that in your opinion, at any rate, of some of the members of the Board, there was a great deal of very important work connected with these other things, altogether outside the land, which comes within the operations of the Board?—Yes. But I should remark this that the Board, with its present staff, could do a great deal more. It made preparations for doing more. The expense was increased a great deal on that account. One thing is certain, every shilling the Board got, I think they put it to the very best use. And still, notwithstanding all their efforts, all they could devote to land was the amount that you mentioned.

4110. Mr. KAVANAGH.—If the Land Purchase Department were taken away from the Congested Districts Board how much income would it lose?—The question you asked me was that if that part of the Board's work were taken away would there be enough of work remaining for the Board?

4111. But now I want to know if the Land Purchase Department were taken away from the Congested Districts Board, how much income would you lose?—

According to that, you would lose only about £12,000 or £14,000. But you must take into account that there was a very large sum out of the total for the staff, and there was no account taken of the staff.

4112. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Does not it come to this: in future, if the Board has to go on without an increase of funds and without the windfalls, it would be the policy of the Board to allocate to outside something more than £11,000, and to let the other departments of the Board's work suffer?—If it wants to go on with the land operations it must take it from the others.

4113. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—In reference to the item which appears for that particular year for piers and roads—£9,000, I speak subject to correction, but I think £5,000 a year is the fixed amount for expenditure on piers and roads?—But in this particular year we had to pay for works done, sums that should have been paid in previous years. I think we are limited to £5,000.

4114. Does this £9,000 represent money that was budgeted for any previous year and had not been spent?—That is so.

The Commission adjourned.

TENTH PUBLIC SITTING.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3rd, 1906,

AT 11 O'CLOCK, A.M.

At 35, Dawson-street, Dublin.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUDLEY, G.C.V.O. (Chairman); The Right Hon. Sir ANTOXY MACDONNELL, G.C.B.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMB, K.C.M.G.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANSAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P., WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., B.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Rev. Denis O'Hara, P.P., further examined.

Oct. 3, 1906.
Rev. Denis
O'Hara, P.P.

4106 The CHAIRMAN.—I think you wish to make a statement?—Yes. Before the adjournment last evening, your lordship was referring to the amount that the Board was expending and proposed to expend on the estate and estate work, and you mentioned that we made provision for £10,000. I have, therefore, thought it well to inform the Commission that I have got a statement prepared, and I find that the Board, for the year 1905-1907, propose to expend £74,000, and that is made up of various items, the details of which I have. It might be well that that should be known, as an impression might get abroad that we were spending too much on some works and too little on others. And this statement which is prepared I will hand in, and it will show the total amount that the Board expended on the estates since the beginning.*

4107 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—On estate improvements?—Estate improvements and work. Of our own funds—of our own money—we spent £152,000. That is the net expenditure.

4108 The CHAIRMAN.—I beg your pardon. Net expenditure?—The net expenditure of the Board for estates has been £152,000. And for the year 1905-1907 they propose to spend £74,000. I think it might be well to state that, my lord, on account of a remark that was made, lest there might be any impression among the members of the Commission that we were devoting too much of our money to the works and not so much to the land that we attach so much importance to.

4109 I think we are a little at cross purposes. You say that for the years 1905 and 1907 you propose to spend £74,000 on land improvements?—On what is called estate business, that is general re-arrangement of estates and improvements.

4110 Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Prior to sale of them?—Yes, prior to sale.

4111 Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would it not be well to read that, so that all the members of the Commission may understand its importance?—Very well.

4112 The CHAIRMAN.—It is very long, is it not?—No, it is not very long. The expenditure of £10,000 in 1902-3 referred to by Lord Dudley—

4113 No, 1905-1907. That was the Board's net expenditure for the year charged to estates out of fixed income, and a further sum of £26,177 was provided from the general balance carried over from the previous year, and £8,000 was expended on administration for estates work.

4114 How much for administration?—£25,000—practically £8,000.

4115 To the administration of estates?—To the administration of estates.

4116 Mr. BRYCE.—That makes £25,127 in all?—£25,127. With regard to the comparison made between the expenditure in that year and the expenditure in 1905-1906, it may be seen from the table on page 7 of Memorandum B,† which was given to the Commissioners early in September, that in 1905-6 the net expenditure charged to estates was

£37,971. A further £20,370 was charged to administration for estates business, making a total of £58,341 provided in that year from the Board's own funds.

4117 The CHAIRMAN.—When you say "out of the Board's own funds," do you mean out of the Board's income?—Not income exactly, but various sources which Sir Antony referred to yesterday as windfalls of various kinds. Sir Antony referred to them as such, and I think he was right in so calling them; but at all events it was money that the Board could lay its hand on, and that they gave for this particular purpose.

4118 Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What were the windfalls?—We get income from rents practically?—No, but owing to profit on land stock and various other things, the Board made some money that they did not expect at one time, but it was expended on the land; and I only want to bring out the point that we expended all through as much of our income as we could on the land, and that the total amount expended, as I stated, was £152,000. For next year we propose to expend £74,000.

4119 Mr. BRYCE.—£152,000 over what period?—From the beginning up to March, 1905. That represented the expenditure of the Board on estates work.

4120 On improvements?—On improvements out of the Board's own funds.

4121 Plus the administration or including the administration?—The £152,000 is exclusive of administration.

4122 Then does it exclude the £9,000 that you mentioned?—It does. The £152,000 is exclusive of administration. Of this £58,000, the £11,000 charged to estates, and the £20,370 charged to administration, were provided out of the income for the year, and the balance, £26,630, was obtained from the Land Commission as the enhanced value and profit on redemption of land stock in connection with the sale of estates between the passing of the Act and 1905. These figures represent the net expenditure, and gross receipts are very large sums, as shown by the Statement from the Secretary which I have handed in. This shows that the volume of work done on estates by the Board since the passing of the Land Act of 1902 has largely increased, the gross expenditure in 1902-3 having been £110,883, and in 1905-6, £275,758, excluding administration; that is £10,960, compared with £20,370 in 1905-6. Then I come to what I have stated already, that in the current year, 1906-7, the Board are putting into the estates business out of their own funds £74,000.

4123 The CHAIRMAN.—Can you tell us how that £74,000 is made up?—The £74,000 is made up of redemption, through the Land Commission, of old estates, £54,000; from the balance of last year's estimates, £10,000; and from this year's fixed income, £10,000; making altogether, £74,000.

4124 The balance of last year's estimates? I think you must mean from last year's receipts from all sources?—That was £10,000 and that was all proposed to be put into the estates work for the coming year.

* See p. 334.

† See p. 247.

4125. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Does it exclude or include the profit made by the Congested Districts Board as between the purchase of estates and their re-settlement?—It includes the profits and what Sir ARTHUR called yesterday the windfalls.

4127. The CHAIRMAN.—That is the £54,000?—Yes.
4128. Then the £10,000 from last year's estimates was a sum of money which you did not expend last year and which you had available for this year?—Yes, my lord. I wanted merely to show that we went as far as we could, and expended as much money as we could, and that the total expenditure has been very large, but that now we have come to a stone wall and can go no further unless we get more funds.

4129. I think you must have misunderstood what I meant. The £54,000 you will have expended, and unless you get another windfall, you have to look to your permanent income for land improvement?—Yes.

4130. And if you exclude the £10,000, which is the balance from last year's estimates, you have left only the £11,000 which you propose to spend out of this year's income upon land improvement?—Yes.

4131. You have had, as I stated last night, practically an increase in your permanent income in the last three years of £38,000—£20,000 that was given you under the Act of 1903, and £18,000 that was released by the transfer of certain duties to the new Department?—That is so.

4132. Was there any reason, except the claims of other work, why you should not have devoted a large portion of that increased income to land improvement?—There was no reason except that we had to increase our staff. We were told, or we were led to believe in 1902, that the pace would be accelerated—the pace of purchase—and we have a staff at present that could turn over a good deal more work if our funds will allow us. We had to increase the staff preparing for the work.

4133. Well, what I said last night was that apparently you were spending in 1901-2 £10,000 out of your fixed income on estate improvements, and that your estimates for the current year showed only an income of £1,000 under that head, though you now have £38,000 more available for general purposes than in 1901-2 out of fixed income. I excluded expenditure from windfalls, because they are only a temporary and occasional source of income. The matter is important because it seems to me that the £38,000 mentioned was intended mainly for estate improvement. Do you know this Minute of Mr. WYNDHAM to the Vice-President of the new Department, dated 12th of October, 1903, printed on page 7 of Memorandum C. If you look at the bottom of that Minute, the last paragraph but two,* you will see that he says, "It is proper that the Congested Districts Board should, in co-operation with other Departments, effect some economy to push forward the primary work to which I have more than once referred," the primary work being land purchase and land improvement?—Yes.

4134. When that £38,000 was given you under the Act of 1903 and the £3,000 was released by the transfer of agricultural work to the new Department, was it not Mr. WYNDHAM's idea that a large portion of that money should be devoted to what he calls the primary work?—Yes; there is no doubt that he thought that we would be able to devote more of it than we could afford to devote.

4135. And his policy was that both the new Department and the Congested Districts Board should make some sacrifices towards getting more funds into the work of land purchase and estate improvement?—I think it was principally on three heads that we got the vote of £38,000, but we found that the increase in the administration was so great, that the administrative expenses were heavy, that we could yield but little to estates work.

4136. Well, your administration is increased by £11,000?—It looks a large sum, but as it is worked out it only costs 6 per cent. on the turn-over.

4137. But the fact remains, does it not, that though you get an increase of £28,000 at that time, and although Mr. WYNDHAM in this Minute suggests that the policy of the Congested Districts Board ought to be to make some economy towards accelerating the work of land purchase, that only an additional £1,000 out of your permanent income has been devoted to the improvement of estates?—That is so, but we consider that the Parish Committee works are

part of the estate works, and the Parish Committee work, as you know, has increased very largely.

4138. That may be so, in an indirect way, but directly coming to estate improvement, is it not the fact that only £1,000 of additional permanent income has been devoted to that purpose?—Yes.

4139. And that therefore when you say that £74,000 this year is to be devoted to that work, you are including in that, sums which you are fortunate to possess?—Yes. Of course the whole of our income would be a little more than £74,000, but we could not, of course, devote that amount. But the point that I wanted to bring out was that the public outside might think that we were only spending £20,000 of that in the coming year on estates, whereas we are spending £74,000, and we must only hope that the future will enable us to spend more.

4140. But if you had not increased your expenditure on fisheries by £5,000, and on piers and roads by £5,000, and on Parish Committees by £3,000, and increased your salaries to stewards and boats by £700, obviously you would have that money available for what has been called your primary work?—Of course, but we acted with as much economy as we could. Taking everything into account, we have cut the cloth according to the measure.

4141. But you have cut the cloth in a different way from what Mr. WYNDHAM had in his mind when he wrote that Minute?—But we did not go very far from it, for the greatest part of it was for administrative expenses; for he gave us to understand that the pace was to be accelerated, and we wanted to prepare for that, and we have the staff now, but you will not, at the end of the year, have money to keep that staff occupied and never would have but for our windfalls.

4142. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Am I right to understand that you said you had £10,000 of a balance last year on this head?—From all sources.

4143. The balance of the estimate you say of what you were to spend?—Yes.

4144. Had you not any balance at all from that estimate?—No we had not; not on the hand. There may be some small little thing from the estimate, but the £10,000 represents the whole thing from all sources.

4145. The balance on the whole of the estimate of the Congested Districts Board?—The whole of the estimate for the Congested Districts Board for the year.

4146. And did you not spend the whole of the money allocated to land improvement during the past year?—Yes, I think so.

4147. And have you not done that every year since you began work?—We have expended more.

4148. You estimate, as I understand, the amount that is to be spent in this particular work in the beginning of the year. Had you a balance then on that part of the money?—Well, I think there may have been a small balance, because we could not operate on the estimate. They were not voted, and the staff were not able till the properties were vested.

4149. And the point is that you cannot be short for money for that purpose if you have a balance on that head.

4150. The CHAIRMAN.—Father O'Hara, I want to exclude questions of items like windfalls and unexpended balances from previous years, because I think they are misleading. Is not the point this—we have been told, I think, that the necessity for the Congested Districts Board being given greater funds is because they will only have £11,000 a year in future to spend upon land improvements—is not that so?—That is so, my lord.

4151. And when you allow for 8 per cent. loss on improvement of estates that will only enable them to deal with £34,000 a year?—That is so. That represents a loss of 8 per cent.

4152. And we have been told and have been shown that if the Congested Districts Board can only deal with £140,000 worth of land a year, the problem will take years and years and years to solve?—It will never be solved.

4153. Your present income is £35,250?—Yes.

4154. And therefore it comes down to this, that, whatever the reason may be, at the present moment you are only in a position to spend £11,000 a year upon land improvements out of the total of £35,250?—That is, taking the sum which we have fixed for this year; after this year is over that is the amount out of income that we shall be able to spend.

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Rev Denis
O'Hara, rev.

4155. And that position has been reached within three years after you have had an addition of income of £225,000 granted to you under the Act of 1903, and £10,000 released by transfer, so that although you have had in the last three years an increase in the permanent income of £235,000, that is your position to-day?—Well, so far, so it is.

4156. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Father O'Hara, does it strike you that the allocation of £11,000 a year out of permanent income to the improvement of estates is very much a look-keeping transaction?—Yes. Of course you have to understand look-keeping and it is a very intricate thing. You would have to understand look-keeping to get a clear idea of how it stands, and the Secretary would be much better able to do that than I could pretend to be.

4157. So long as the Board had a large contingent income amounting, say, to £254,000, is it likely that the Board would allocate that income as it was derived from land to estate improvement before putting down a sum out of permanent income for the improvement of estates?—Yes; there was the unexpected case of a profit we made on land stock which we thought it was well to spend on the land, and that might account to some extent for it, that we only for this coming year allocate £11,000.

4158. So long, therefore, as the Board had that large contingent income it was not necessary to keep out of permanent income more money than was required for the amelioration of the land that actually passed into the Board's hands?—Yes, that is so, my lord; and we thought £254,000 on the lands under the Board would be a fair thing for the year.

4159. If that contingent income disappeared or became notably diminished, and if the Board's permanent income were not increased, would the Board, as a matter of fact, be able to allocate much more of its permanent income than £11,000 for estate improvements?—They would certainly have to clip the wings of some of the others. They would not be able to devote so much to parish works or other works.

4160. In your opinion so long as the Board had this large contingent income for the purpose of improving estates was it good policy to devote as much money out of permanent income as could be made available to industries and other departments of the Board's work?—I believe that was the reason, my lord, why the Board made the arrangement they did and gave so much to each department.

4161. If the Board could spare money for industries and fisheries beyond the money now put into these departments, would it be very advisable to spare it?—If the Board of course could spare it, it would be very advisable.

4162. And, therefore, is this what has happened, that because of the large contingent income of the Board for estate purposes during past years, the Board spared out of its permanent income the money necessary for improvements in industries and fisheries?—As I explained, my lord, I believe that is the reason why. Considering they had this amount of money available, they had not only their normal regular income, but what Sir Antony called yesterday windfalls, it was more than usual, and for this year they thought £254,000 was quite enough for the land, and they had only to add the £11,000 to what they had already.

4163. But, regard as is the development of industries and the development of fisheries, if the Board did not have this large contingent income, face to face with the improvement of estates, it would be compelled to do what the Chairman has suggested, and allocate a much larger portion of its permanent income to the improvement of estates?—Of course; there could be no other way. That is the only way, my lord.

The CHAIRMAN.—There is no indication that way in the Board's letter to the Treasury of 8th October, 1903, re-printed in Memorandum B.*

4164. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—With regard to this £235,000, in view of Mr. George Wyndham's Memorandum, it appears that the £235,000 was really obtained for the express purpose of accelerating the development of land?—So I stated.

4165. And having got that £235,000, the Board did not treat it as earmarked for that purpose, but put it into the general fund, and so part of it has been absorbed in transactions other than the development of land?—I do not think they considered it to be totally earmarked for that particular purpose, and I

think you will see that most of it this year will be given for that purpose.

4166. But it has not been. That is my point. But it will be?—Well, I believe that by taking from the other departments they will, and I hope they will, and I am anxious that they will, personally, devote as much of their income as they can to the land.

4167. But the Board do not practically regard this as being earmarked for the purpose of land development?—Not entirely, but it was certainly understood that most of it was to be applied for that purpose, and they have applied most of it for that purpose, because you will see that the administrative expenses have been greatly increased in preparation for what we thought was coming, and we are now prepared to transact a large volume of work if we only get the funds.

4168. Will you tell me how much of that £235,000 was appropriated to meet expenditure on administration in preparation for the land work?—The Secretary will be better able to explain that, but I think about £10,000.

4169. The CHAIRMAN.—With regard to what you have just said to Sir John, I think you told him that unless an increase of funds be given to the Board, you would be obliged to divert some of this money from the purposes on which you propose to spend it this year. That hardly seems a quite accurate statement of the position when we are told that the Congested Districts Board will only be able to deal in the future with £140,000 worth of land in the year?—Well, it may not be strictly accurate, but it is pretty close to it.

4170. Where is it pretty close to it?—It may be represented each year. Each year, as I told Mr. Sutherland, the Board prepares a statement and submits it to the Treasury for the financial year, and that statement represents this year. No doubt, if we regard the claims of other departments, we will not be able to devote very much more than we may be able to get from the little clippings. At all events, the parish Committee works will have to be doctored, and as for the fisheries, Mr. Green will not be very well pleased if they have to suffer, and Mr. Walker with the industries, and so on.

4171. You would be put in this position then, that you would either have to deal with only £140,000 a year for land, or if you wished to accelerate the land work you would have to take away funds from what you consider useful and necessary work?—That is so, my lord.

4172. If that is the case, if the claims of those other works have been so pressing that you have found it right to spend this money upon them, can it then be truly said that land purchase is 11-12ths or 9-10ths of the work of the Congested Districts Board?—Well, if it be 9-10ths of the Congested Districts Board's work, the only thing that can be deducted from that is that we want some funds.

4173. You would not like to see this money taken away from the work to which you have allocated it?—No; because I think that after the preparation to spend on improvements of estates, our parish Committee works are just as necessary a purpose, and that unless the Board carry on this work the people that need it will not be trained, and if we take up the funds from the parish Committee work it will be like the old story of feeding the dog with a bit of his own tail.

4174. And the parish Committee work and the industries work, and the subsidies to steamers and fisheries to which you refer are extremely important work?—Yes.

4175. And work which requires a considerable amount of money to be devoted to it?—It requires every shilling that can be devoted to it, and perhaps more, and the industries require to be extended; and in the poor districts which Mr. Doran referred to as Lands A and B, where the people do not migrate from those districts unless you find industries for them, they will be in the same condition as before, so that you will want to give more for industries instead of diminishing the arm.

4176. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Then you do not keep these funds quite apart, one from the other, for land, fisheries, and industries?—We do. We try to fix the sum that we are able to gauge. We try as far as we can, but of course sometimes we are able to take from one and give to another.

4177. That is what I mean—they overlap sometimes?—Yes, on certain points.

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4173. If you want to develop one more than another you take from one and give to the other?—Yes; we have to submit a statement to the Treasury then and explain to them.

4174. Have you any estates on hand now that require development?—We have a million and a quarter's worth of land that requires development.

4175. That has not been dealt with yet?—That has not been dealt with yet—that is, very little of it, I mean.

4176. Those are the estates you are going to spend the money on?—Those are the estates that we are going to spend the £74,000 of the Board's money on next year.

4177. Do you not think that it would be better to allocate certain sums for those three purposes, land, fisheries, and industries, and not to take for one from the other?—We do that, and we try as far as we can.

4178. But you do not actually do so?—We cannot actually, because sometimes you may propose to spend funds on estates, as we proposed last year to expend a certain sum that we could not spend, because the estates were not vested, and our legal adviser says it would not be safe to spend the money, and that money was lying over. And then Mr. Green might say there was so much available for fisheries, and why would not he get it?

4179. But one part might suffer when you are pressing for another part?—Yes, and that is the reason I said in reply to Lord Dudley, that we try as far as we can to cut our cloth according to the measure. We try to give to each department what we think they reasonably ought to get.

4180. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Without questioning is the least what you have stated, I should just like to bring out one point. I will take it that the expenditure on subsidies to special industries amounts to £28,000. That will be the eight per cent loss?—I think it works out as nearly as possible at six per cent loss, the administrative expenses.

4181. I will take it at eight per cent. If the intention of Mr. Wyndham's Memorandum had been carried out, that £28,000, or by far the greater part of it, would have been available for estate improvements—assuming it was carried out?—Yes.

4182. And assuming eight per cent is the loss, that would enable you to purchase £240,000 worth of land. Take eight per cent, and at present you are able to deal with as much money as you allocated, that is £140,000, for the purchase of land?—Yes.

4183. If, therefore, Mr. Wyndham's Memorandum were given effect to, in your future arrangements for outlay you would be able to deal not with £140,000, but with £280,000?—Not with the eight per cent loss, and remember in the next place that with the rate that we have to pay for land now since 1905, the Board might have to lose more than eight per cent.

4184. That depends on the price at which you give the land over to the small holder. But that is how the figures work out. I do not wish to press the point, but assuming that £20,000 out of the £28,000 now applied to subsidies and increase of staff—£5,000 for pens and roads, and so on—was devoted to estates improvements. Now, eight per cent is a little more than one-twelfth. That would give you a little more than £280,000 worth of land?—One-twelfth of £140,000?

4185. No; £28,000 is one-twelfth of £280,000. I do not say it ought to be done, but if Mr. Wyndham's Memorandum had been strictly carried out, it would have left you with £28,000 that you can spend for other things to meet the loss on land purchase?—That I beg your pardon; you have to take out the administrative expenditure.

4186. I have taken it out. It would have been £28,000 if I had put that in. I say that you would have £280,000, which represents the means of dealing with £280,000 worth of land, and added to the £140,000 with which you now deal, that would have left you in the position of being able to purchase £280,000 worth of land?—I understand the point you make, but I am afraid I am not able to deal clearly with that point. The Secretary would be better able to explain; but all I know is this, that the Board have tried as far as they could to make every shilling go as far as possible.

4187. Mr. BURKE.—Do you think that Mr. Wyndham, when he wrote that Memorandum, thoroughly understood the distinction which has now

been drawn before us by Mr. Deane between these separate classes of congested districts marked A, B, and C—did he thoroughly realise that as regards improvement of land nothing was to be expected from expenditure on Treasury A?—I think in his enthusiasm he thought that the little income of the Board would go a longer way than it has been able to go.

4188. The point I want to make is this, that if Mr. Wyndham had realised that difference clearly in his mind, he would have seen that there would be an injustice in not going to that expenditure on maritime districts, which are not improvable by any treatment of land, and that therefore there would be great unfairness in devoting the whole of the money that was available to improvement of land?—I believe that Mr. Wyndham himself would be fully satisfied with what the Board had done, because, for my part, I always found him most enthusiastic as regards the work of the Board, and I believe it would be satisfied that the Board have done their best with the increased income and increased work.

4189. The CHAIRMAN.—And the fact that that is so shows the great need of spending money upon the district marked A in Mr. Deane's map?—Yes. I personally believe and agree with what Mr. Deane stated, that the people for some time will not be got to migrate from this district. You may do something for them, and give them some industries, but instead of taking anything from them you must try to give them something more.

4190. Must Mr. Dr. O'Donnell?—You do not for a moment question that, that if the Board took £28,000 of that permanent income from the departments in which it is now expended, that £28,000, as a matter of fact, would be available for additional expenditure on estates?—Of course, if they took £28,000 for estates, it would be quite available, but you would be depriving other works.

4191. The Parish Committees would disappear?—Yes, and the industries would disappear.

4192. Is there any other Department teaching the Parish Committees?—That is one work, at all events, that the Board organised, and that has not been done by any other body or Board but the Congested Districts Board—that is the Parish Committee work.

4193. From your knowledge of the country and the west, and the people in the districts, do you think it would be disastrous to take funds from the parish Committees?—I believe that it would, and I believe that the Commission when they go round the country will hear from every witness, almost, that there is no part of the Board's work that is so much appreciated and has done so much good as the parish Committee work.

4194. Mr. BURKE.—Is fact it might be considered as educative. It tends to improve the land?—Of course it is improving the land.

4195. Well, it is improving the land indirectly, because what you are doing is spending money on the houses?—Oh, no; we spend money on all kinds of improvements.

4196. I mean that is part of the work that really tends to do so. Does not that part of it which is indirect tend to the improvement of the land by educating the people?—It tends eventually to improve the condition of the landholder and to improve the land for the Parish Committee has a land scheme, and improvement is part of the scheme.

4197. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Father O'Hara, did I understand you rightly to say that at this moment you have about a million and a quarter's worth of land on hands that you are unable to deal with?—We have a million and a quarter million's worth bought since 1905 that we will not be able to deal with satisfactorily unless we get more funds.

4198. I want to understand your position towards the tenants. Are you in the position of the former landlords in holding that land?—We are now on arms of the estates. We are not on all of them. Some of them we bought two years ago, but the Board were not in the position of landlords until recently. That is one of the difficulties that the people earnestly understand. They think that if the Board buy an estate, the following day they are in the position of the landlord.

4199. Now, you are in the position of the landlord. Suppose this state of things continues—a large volume of land is on hand, and you are unable to deal with it so as to sell it to the tenants. I presume the tenants can take the Congested Districts Board into court and

Oct. 8, 1905, get rents adjusted just the same as under the old system?—Just the same.

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4204. And I presume also the Congested Districts Board are narrowly tied up by the Act of 1891 as if they were private landowners?—Well, they are not so tied; they have a great deal more liberty in some respects.

4205. Under what Act?—There were several amending Acts after 1891 that gave the Board more power than that of ordinary landlords. A landlord could not strip and could not turn a man out who was a tenant.

4206. Taking the position of the Congested Districts Board as being the position of landlords, with modifications, of these lands, and assuming, as we know the fact is, that the Board are in hearty sympathy with the tenants, can you not do anything at all to improve the condition of the tenants?—No; our law advisers will not allow us.

4207. I am now keeping clear of expenditure. Money is your difficulty. But what I want to know is, apart from that, can you not as a great sympathetic landlord holding these enormous quantities of land, do a great deal to ameliorate the condition of those people, and if not why not?—You cannot strip or do anything that will interfere with any man's holding.

4208. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Could you not strip by agreement?—Yes, but it would be troublesome, troublesome, and difficult.

4209. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—You would be met by the same difficulties as the landlords in the past?—Yes. Until the Board get a vesting order our law adviser says we should not, and must not expend money on it. The vesting order is not made out as quickly as we would like it. When it is made out Mr. Derran goes about and makes improvements. He submits to the Board whatever he suggests, and then the Board tell him to go on.

4210. Mr. SUTHERLAND. This vesting difficulty has arisen several times?—Yes.

4211. But in reading the Act of Parliament I find that Parliament has made very liberal provision for vesting in the Congested Districts Board?—Somewhat or other after the Acts of Parliament are passed, when they reach Dublin they read them in their own meaning and they delay a good deal. I think they were blocked, but I believe that in future the pace will be accelerated and they will not be so long.

4212. Any difficulty certainly does not lie in the Legislature?—No; the Legislature supposed that it would go through rapidly, but it is a fact that we have properties bought for two years that were not vested.

4213. Here are the words of the Act (read). Words could not be clearer than that!—In the last three months, sir, I think, to the pleasure of Sir Anthony McDonnell, I think they have vested a good deal faster than before.

4214. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—But you are tripped up and hampered in your position as landowners by technical little questions under various Acts of Parliament that have been passed?—Well, of course, there must be some difficulty in the way, but I only state the fact that the Board bought properties that have not been vested yet, and some that were delayed for one year, and some nearly two years.

Mr. BAKER.—Should we not get this better from the evidence?

4215. Mr. KAVANAGH.—That million and a quarter's worth is not vested in the Board?—Not vested altogether. Part of it is. The agreements have been signed with the landlord. It is actually sold to the Board, but the vesting order is not made out.

4216. They cannot deal with it?—They cannot deal with it till the vesting order is made out. One other point I should like to impress on the Commission is that the larger the area the Board have to operate on at the same time the more good can be done. If the Board buy small properties here and there they cannot carry out any large system of drainage, and there is nothing so necessary for the improvement of poor land as drainage. But for the sake of the Dublin estate the Board could never carry out the large drainage schemes they had. Boring would cost here and there, and afterwards carrying out improvement works upon them, will be far more expensive and far less satisfactory. I think the members of the Commission will understand themselves—and I have said already—that I was in favour of buying up all the land, at least in the congested districts, completely. I would go further and say that all Connacht ought to be scheduled as

congested, and there ought to be compulsion in the whole of Connacht. I would follow that up by saying that the larger the area the Board can operate on the more good can be done. If the Board buy a small property of fifty tenants, of course you can do very little within that area in the way of drainage though drainage may be very necessary. You can do a little, of course, but you cannot go beyond that, because you will not have a passage over other estates. My idea is the Board should take over a large area, and those who know the Dublin estate know the truth of what I am saying, and that the success of the drainage schemes there was due to the fact that the area was so large. In the very poor districts there must be a very considerable outlay in stripping and re-arranging and enlargement of holdings and in migrating some of those who wish to have more and better land, and the Board's funds would need to be largely increased for this purpose. It is well to remember, however, that it is much better to expend money in permanently improving the condition of the people than to have to dole out, periodically, relief to the same class, who, when the bad year is over, are just in the same wretched condition as before. It is worth while inquiring how much money was expended for relief in the West since 1879. Even last year the Government had to open relief works in several districts in the West, whilst this year there will undoubtedly be felt the pinch of hunger amongst the smallest of the landholders on account of the failure of the potato crop. There is bound to be this periodic distress in the future as there has been in the past, where the land is bad and the holdings small, unless something is done to permanently improve the condition of those people.

4216. The CHAIRMAN.—Your view is, then, that it would be a good investment for the Government to spend money for these purposes in the West because it would save them, in all probability, greater expenditure in the long run?—That is my view, sir, I hold.

4217. It would save them, you think, large sums which they have now to give in relief grants?—Yes. Every fourth or fifth year, certainly every fifth year, the Government have to be spending money on relief works in the West, and most of these works, except the railways, may be put down as unproductive. I asked you yesterday, as I could not get it myself, I said that it would be well if you could get the Government to give you the total amount that was expended on all sorts of works in the West since 1879.

4218. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Out of Government funds?—Out of all funds controlled by the Government. Of course you will not be able to get possibly all that was spent through charitable funds for relief of distress since 1879. All you can get is the amount of Government relief since that year. I think that from all sources there has been about one and a quarter millions expended on relief for that one year alone. But you will not get the amount spent out of charitable funds. You will be able, though, to get from the Chief Secretary's Office, I suppose, the amount that was expended on relief by the Government.

4219. The CHAIRMAN.—Father O'Hara, after your many years' experience in the West, can you say that in those districts where the Congested Districts Board have spent money in various ways, there is now less demand in bad years for relief works than in other places?—Yes. I can say truthfully that there is less demand now than there was, and that proves that the condition of the people is somewhat improved. There is less demand for relief now in bad years, because in 1879 and 1882, I think, and other bad years, the people were so poor in those districts that really, bad and all as they are now, if you were to see them then you would think they would never be able to get over those years of distress. But they are improving. I am glad to say, a little. The Board can claim a little credit at all events, and the people are not so anxious to cry out for relief as they were. As an instance of it now, in ARAR Island they always had the flag half-mast high, but since the Board took it under its wing there is not a word about distress at all. In Glenties Island it is the same, whilst the Board, every year, had to expend large sums on relief works. My contention is that if you could get the Government now to expend on permanent improvements the sums of money which they used to spend on relief works then the people will be improved and they will not want any relief.

* See footnote, p. 186

4220. And your opinion is that the improvement in the West is as marked as it ought to be when we remember that the Board has spent, during its existence, nearly £100,000?—I believe the Board could not have done better, and I believe the people believe that all that is done is well done, but they want more.

4221. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But they do not depend on the potato so much now as in 1879?—No. In 1879 they had nothing but the potato and Indian meal; now the people are better off, I am glad to say, and feed themselves a little better.

4222. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—When you recommend us to get information as to the expenditure on relief in the West in 1879, do you mean merely what was spent out of the Imperial money or do you mean also expenditure added by means of rates?—No, Sir John. I want merely that you would get the money expended—Imperial money. You see in each of these years they opened what was called relief works, or they made what the people used to call roads leading nowhere, and they expended, every fourth or fifth year, large sums of money on these relief works. And these relief works were not, in any way, reproductive as a rule.

4223. Do you include in that expenditure which we ought to have before us the large sum of money spent on assisting migration of whole families in 1853 and 1854?—I think you ought to get the whole expenditure by the Government from 1879.

4224. Now you have just said you thought undoubtedly the pinch of hunger would be felt amongst the smallest of the landholders this year?—Yes.

4225. Do you think that the smallest holders of land that has been resettled and dealt with by your Board will also feel the pinch of hunger?—Not to the same extent at all.

4226. Do you go so far as to say that in any measure of relief the debt of tenants on an estate already dealt with by the Board ought to be excluded from that relief?—I do. I think myself they will not ask for it. They will feel that they have been raised a little in the social scale; they will feel a little more independent and a little better off.

4227. Mr. BRYCE.—Do you not think, in addition to what Sir John asked you, that that return ought to include any other money spent out of the rates by the Guardians, because if the condition of the country is improved all that would be saved?—I think that is very necessary, but it will be impossible for you to get all. I think the relief money can be got; we might be able to get it, and it would be most instructive.

4228. The Local Government Board would be able to give it?—Not all. The rest was sent through various channels.

4229. I am not talking of charitable money. I am talking of money spent out of the rates?—Yes; they can supply that information.

4230. I think they ought to be asked for it?—Yes, and if they cannot give it the Clerk of each Rural District Council can supply you with it. I got it for the Swinford Union myself.

4231. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—But there are such accounts too as the Marlborough Fund, which was a charitable fund in 1879, and these accounts were fully published?—Yes. The account of the Manson House and Marlborough Fund reached huge proportions, half a million of money I think, and as soon as the bad year was over there was no trace of it. If now you got a sum equivalent to that to spend in the West you might rest satisfied that during your lifetimes you would hear no more about poverty and distress there.

4232. Mr. BRYCE.—Would it be possible, in the Imperial Returns, to distinguish between reproductive and unproductive expenditure?—I think the only reproductive expenditure was on railways. The roads would be unproductive almost. While the railways might not be reproductive in one sense, at the same time it was money well expended, but the other works, except railway works, I think, can be put down as purely relief works which were not of very much benefit to the district, except just to give employment.

4233. Is it your experience that works done at that time were usually a waste of money?—As a rule it was.

4234. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you include the roads?—Yes. To some extent of course they were useful, but they cost a great deal more than they ought.

4235. That is another matter, but surely a road represents a permanent asset, even if it does not go far enough?—I say to a small extent they were useful. Undoubtedly in Connemara district and other parts of Galway as well as Mayo here and there they might be some use, but still the people would have managed to get on without the roads, or have them made some other way. But what I say is that the sum expended on relief works since 1879 would reach an enormous amount.

4236. Mr. BRYCE.—Are you aware that in the maritime districts there are a great many boat-ships to which no one goes now because they were simply built for purpose of providing relief?—I think that must be put down to the Board of Works. They got credit for all that kind of work.

4237. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you think that drainage works would be better than roads and railways?—Yes. I tried last year, when we got some relief from the rates, to carry out some drainage works. I look upon drainage as the most important work and the first work that should be carried out.

4238. It would have a lasting effect?—Yes. The other is transitory, and as soon as the bad year is over they are just as bad as ever.

4239. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The difficulty is that you cannot get drainage works started in time to be of use in an emergency?—Yes. It is in winter time distress usually comes, and you cannot carry out large main-drainage in winter.

4240. Is there something demoralising in relief works? Is it that people do not exert themselves?—Relief works are not altogether a blessing. Of course they have a demoralising effect on the people, who go there to put in their time and do very little.

4241. You think useful relief work would be better than giving relief indiscriminately?—Yes. Most of the tenanted land in the congested districts is capable of very considerable improvement. I have always held—and I believe I am not over the mark—that five-sixths of the tenanted lands in the West could be made yield double as much as it is yielding at present. There is scarcely a holding on which the gross produce could not be doubled by an improved system of agriculture—by drainage, reclamation, good manuring, a good variety of crops, and the right class of stock. If what I say be correct, and I think many intelligent farmers will agree with me; see the number of small farms on which a family cannot now live, that will become economic. To many it would be the same as doubling the area of their holdings. In some districts, where there is no land available for their enlargement, the people should be encouraged in every way to increase the productivity of their holdings. I think that will commend itself—I hope it will—to the good sense of the Commission. That where you cannot migrate a man, and where he has land of improvable quality, he ought to be encouraged to make as much out of the land as it will yield, and, as I said yesterday, I believe if they get encouragement, as on the Dillen estate, there will be fewer economic holdings than even Mr. Doran was inclined to consider.

4242. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Would you develop that? What sort of encouragement do you mean?—I refer to an improved system of drainage. I think that is the first and most important work for the whole of Ireland, and particularly for the congested districts, because if the land is too sodden a man cannot make anything out of it. Until a main drain is made he can make nothing of his own land, and if the Board have not a large area to operate on they cannot make a main drain.

4243. The CHAIRMAN.—You suggest the Board should do the main drains?—Yes; and that the people should do the small drains or side drains.

4244. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Before then you visit an estate or group of estates in the tenants, would you insist on the completion of the main drainage works that would be necessary in the locality?—I think the Board should not give over the land to the tenants until they first completed main drainage, and I think there ought to be a law compelling the people when this is done to keep the drains open.

4245. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—On whom should the obligation rest?—Any man affected.

4246. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—But you would require to have an organisation; you would require to have a local Board such as the Drainage Boards now?—You would; either the District Council or the County

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Council, or even the Parish Committee. Still the Parish Committee is only transitory.

4247. Would you impose on the District Councils the duty of maintaining the main drainage?—I would, but the people affected should pay for it.

4248. No doubt; but the organization to keep it up? You could not expect a multitude of small tenants to combine together for the maintenance of a large work?—No. The old story; what is every man's business is no man's business would come in.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Each of them would not see his particular benefit. Would you require the creation of a body having jurisdiction over a large area such as a rural district?

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—With power to assess?

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—With power to assess.

4249. The CHAIRMAN.—Who is to maintain the large drainage on the Dillon estate?—I am sorry to say no provision has been made for that, and that is the reason I say there ought to be some law obliging people affected by the drains to keep them open.

4250. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Does the Local Government Act confer powers on Rural Councils at present to do such a thing as that?—I do not think so, but I am not quite sure.

4251. And if it does not would you confer such a power?—Yes.

4252. Either on them or some other body of the kind?—Of course, the only body that can operate at present is the Drainage Board.

4253. The Drainage Board is a Board composed of landholders?—Principally.

4254. They may take in others, they may take in representatives of the tenants, but they consist principally of landholders. You cannot expect a multitude of tenants to join together and make an effective Board. You must have some wider organisation, and you would be prepared to make use of the Rural Councils for the purpose of giving them powers of rating?—Yes.

4255. Mr. BAYCE.—But they must also be provided with power to compel them to do it by mandamus or by the Local Government Board?—Yes, and I think they ought to have power to compel men and they should be compelled themselves to see that it is done.

4256. Sir JOHN COLMAN.—Do you not, Father O'Hara, see some danger in a drainage area involving four or five different Rural Councils: do you not see some danger in putting the matter into the hands of Rural Councils, natural friction may arise where the area to be dealt with embraces several Rural Councils?—Of course there is that danger, but we hope that things will run smoothly in the course of a short time.

4257. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But could you not obviate that danger by giving power to the County Council where there are several District Councils concerned?—That is quite right. I think they might be a Court of Appeal.

Sir JOHN COLMAN.—But may you not have a drainage area within the sphere of more than one County Council?

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—We are getting into these questions here.

Mr. BAYCE.—On the Dillon estate the Lurg river flows through Mayo and Roscommon, so you would require two Councils?

4258. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are we not leading up to a National Council now?—If we are to have a National Council I suppose they will have that much power at all events.

4259. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Would you limit it to drainage?—No, but they would have that much power at all events.

4260. The CHAIRMAN.—We have got from Parish Committees to National Councils?—The Parish Committees started by the Board have done a good deal in this direction. In October, 1897, those Committees were started in the Salford Union, an inland district—one of the poorest and most populous in the whole of the congested districts, and where little had hitherto been done by the Board, and in which there was little or no grazing land available for the embargement of holdings. The Board determined to try if concepts of land in that district could be encouraged by means of prizes or small grants to make permanent improvements in their land, their houses, and surroundings. The Board believed that, by the aid of these Committees a local interest would be created in the Board's

projects and the people would be stimulated to help themselves by carrying out useful works, which the small prizes would induce them to undertake. The "Scheme for the Administration" and "Instructions and Suggestions for the Guidance of Persons concerned in the work of the Parish Committees" are handed in.* The scheme was taken up enthusiastically by those for whom it was intended, and such satisfactory reports came from priests and officials as well as from the Board's own inspectors, that it was decided to continue and extend it. There are now 160 parish committees working in the congested districts, and the Board spent last year out of its own funds about £12,000 on this branch of its work. An inspection of the work done will convince the Commission that a vast amount of permanent improvements can be carried out under this scheme for a comparatively small outlay. Last year 1,266 out-ditches were built, and in no case was the grass paid until the cattle were put out of the dwelling-house and the manure heaps removed a distance from the broken fences. The Board had there is no other way in which money can be so productively applied for the development of agriculture. It stimulates the people to make the most out of the land they hold, and it has a civilising and elevating and educational effect upon them. We had that once a man begins to improve his home and surroundings he will continue improving. From a sanitary point of view alone it should be encouraged. The scheme has done more in a few years towards improving the sanitary condition of the people than the sanitary officers and sub-sanitary officers have ever done. This part of the Board's work should be continued and extended to every parish where they wish to have a Parish Committee.

4261. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Am I correct in saying that there is more than one scheme of administration of Parish Committees, more than one method in operation?—In Donegal, yes; there is the same thing, but it is a different method. Still I think it is on the same lines.

4262. Will you please explain the general character of the method with which you are most familiar—what is the method practised in the West?—The general method is that which comes under the heading of the local scheme, but it is varied to the scheme for the administration as a whole.

4263. What is the method you have of constituting the Committee?—We have first of all the Committee.

4264. Who compose the Committee?—The Committee is composed first of all of ex-officio members, and honorary members, and elective members.

4265. They are from the locality?—Yes, they all live in the parish.

4266. The CHAIRMAN.—Who are the temporary members?—The temporary members may be the landlord or the agent as long as he is in that position. Then the ex-officio members are the clergyman of all denominations, the medical officer, the Poor Law Guardian, and the District Commissioners; and the elected members are six men appointed by the parish at a meeting after due notice in the usual way.

4267. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—How is the election of these members carried out?—A notice is put up, a public notice, on the ordinary public, that a day is fixed for the election, and the people meet on the place thus selected and any six that get the majority, voting the same as at any other local election, they become members of the Committee.

4268. Do all the people present at the meeting vote?—Yes, as a rule they do.

4269. Mr. BAYCE.—Are they representative of the ratepayers?—They are ratepayers.

4270. I mean is the Committee actually representative of the ratepayers?—Yes, I think that all present are generally ratepayers. They ought to be paying rates in the district where they live.

4271. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—How do you then proceed—how do you get the funds?—After the Committee is formed they write to the Secretary of the Congested Districts Board, and they acquaint him with what has been done and send up the names. The Board, beforehand, have handed on the amount of the grant they will give to the parish for the year. A secretary is appointed by the local committee, and our secretary in Dublin notifies him of the amount of the grant.

* S.C. Thirtieth Report of the Congested Districts Board, pp. 104-123.

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4272. What usually is the amount given to a parish?—It varies from £50 to about £120.

4273. When you get that money from the Board how do you proceed to deal with it?—When we get the money—

4274. Pardon me, let me ask is there any local subscription?—There is no local subscription. Of course these committees are in districts which are the poorest of the poor.

4275. I see. Well, you have got to the point of having got the money from the Board?—Yes, all the money comes from the Board.

4276. How do you proceed to deal with it?—When the Committee know what is the contribution for the year they invite people to send in applications for the performance of works and they give certain sums to those selected by way of aid or encouragement.

4277. Is there any definition of the kind of work for which you are to give the grant?—Yes, the works are laid down in the scheme. Parish schemes are drawn up of the works which must be works of material improvement in the parish.

4278. Is that scheme approved by the Congested Districts Board?—The scheme is approved by the Congested Districts Board and sent down to the Committee and they have to work within that scheme.

4279. And then?—After that we proceed to deal with the applications from the people to undertake the work of improvement, and these applications come before the local Committee, and it considers the schemes and the men who are anxious to undertake them. It acts on the principle of giving the grant for the largest amount of work for the least amount of money; that offer is generally accepted first. The Committee considers that all these works ought to be done eventually, but the grant is only given as an encouragement.

4280. The largest amount of money, then, is given to the person who offers to do the most work, that is, work which is of the greatest value compared with the amount of the grant?—Yes, the value of the work is larger and the grant is comparatively smaller.

4281. Have you any regard to the great urgency, the pressing need of the work to be done?—Yes. The Committee then considers those who get the grant in previous years, and if others who have had no grant have made applications they are first considered on their merits and generally they are preferred to any other.

4282. Say a man undertakes for a grant of £10 to do £100 worth of work in the drainage and reclamation of his holding, would you give that man the £10 in preference to a man who wanted money for work in erecting pig-sties or cow-houses to get the cattle out of the living house?—No one is to get a grant of £10.

4283. I have merely suggested the amounts as an illustration?—Of course they ought to be guided in these improvements by local considerations, and the Committee act upon that as far as they can. I am glad to say our reports from the inspectors say the committees on the whole are working most satisfactorily.

4284. Would it be desirable that any preference should be given to sanitary works, the improvement of the homestead?—The rule is that no man can get any grant whatever unless he makes sanitary improvements. The first condition of the grant is that he removes the cows from the dwelling-house and the manure heap from the kitchen door. Without that there is no grant.

4285. He is not eligible?—He is not eligible as an applicant for works unless he undertakes to do these things.

4286. Do you give grants to assist in putting them out?—No, not for putting out the cows, but for building houses to put the cattle in.

4287. Is that out of the parish fund or other funds?—It is out of the Parish Committee's grant. We might give a man £2 to encourage him to erect houses for cattle coming about £12.

4288. You do, then, assist under the scheme of improvement to carry out sanitary work?—Yes, to that extent.

4289. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT—Does he get the grant at once or after the work is done?—No, only after the work is done.

4290. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL—Is there much competition for the grant?—In some cases it is surprising the number who come into the Parish Committee with offers to carry out works of improvement.

4291. How many times the grant is the value of the work done?—About four or five times the amount of the grant. In no instance do we grant more than one-third. Very seldom do we give more than one-fourth.

4292. What is the nature of the competing scheme in Donegal?—In Donegal they have a sort of prize scheme, and it comes to nearly the same thing as ours in the end.

4293. It is for a similar class of improvements?—Yes, it is on the same lines.

4294. That is to say you give the prizes after the work is done?—You may call them prizes if you will; we give grants for specified work when it is done.

4295. And in Donegal?—I really cannot say that I am familiar with the details of the work in Donegal.

4296. Where shall we be able to get that information first hand?—Of course when you go down to Donegal you can study their method of procedure, and the secretary will give you all the information.

4297. The CHAIRMAN—I suppose "bonus" would be a better term than "prizes"?—You may call it any name you like. The main feature of both is similar, the grant of a sum of money for a definite amount of work.

4298. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL—Are you able to estimate that a man, or men, say A, B, or C has done better than the rest of the alphabet, and do you say we will give A, B, and C all the prizes?—I think that is something like the Donegal scheme.

4299. The CHAIRMAN—A, B, and C have the prizes and they have done the work?—All this applies to Donegal, and I am afraid I cannot enlighten you on the details of that work. I am giving information about the Western scheme with which I am associated.

4300. Under the Donegal scheme anybody who does the work has a free hand and he gets a prize?—So far as I understand it, if he does a certain kind of work then he gets the prize. I say that under correction from his Lordship the Bishop.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL—There are no blanks; all prizes.

4301. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL—It is all for the benefit of the people. When there are two schemes there is a good deal of competition as to which will produce the best results?—I gather that is so, my Lord.

4302. The point is, whether you get more of these valuable improvements done by the Donegal system than by the system in Mayo; whether there is a better return for the money?—The merits of both have been considered by the Board.

4303. And there was no decisive reply?—No; it is dealt with in the report.

4304. The CHAIRMAN—How is it we have the two systems?—Mayo was first taken up, and it was not followed in Donegal for some years. When they took up the scheme I think it was suggested that the Board, by having a little change might get more value perhaps, and they called it by another name—the Prize scheme.

4305. Sir JOHN CROMBIE—That is, I suppose, that Donegal did not like imitating Mayo altogether? They wanted something different?—That might be. The same thing might do well in one place and not in another.

4306. Is the Secretary paid; does he receive any emolument at all?—He gets a few pounds a year.

4307. Is any other officer paid?—No member of the Committee is paid.

4308. What is it the Secretary gets?—He gets a few pounds, five per cent. on the grant up to £5. He cannot get more than £5.

4309. How does that compare with the salary of the sub-sanitary officers of the district?—Well, I think the sub-sanitary officers are paid well for the amount of work they do. They do nothing.

4310. Exactly. The Parish Committee, which is your chief, put the scheme forward?—I don't claim the credit altogether. I submitted it to the Board before I became a member at all and Mr. Doran elaborated it and put it into shape.

4311. Take that district, where you had it carried out. Can you say whether there is any calculation of what is the amount of the money the ratepayers and the Imperial Treasury spend in that district on the salaries of sanitary officers to do this very work?—I am not prepared to say. The secretary of each rural district could give you the figures perhaps.

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4318. Would you be surprised to hear that—I take the only place for which I have the figures—Donegal—that the amount spent for salaries for doing this very work is £1,000 a year?—I should say that is money easily earned.

4319. Then your experience is this, that the sanitary officers get their salaries for doing practically nothing?—Yes. I think the sanitary officers and sub-sanitary officers get salaries for doing nothing; and this is the reason, as I suggested yesterday that I would like, under a different system, to see the police charged with these sanitary duties—I mean the police under an Irish Government.

4320. Sir FRANCIS MURRAY.—The sub-sanitary officer assists the sanitary officer in doing nothing?—Generally, I say that very little is done by them. That is what it amounts to.

4321. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—And the reason nothing is done is because the administrative body, the Rural District Council, formerly the Board of Guardians, do not care two pence about sanitation; and therefore the officers are paid and they do nothing, simply because their employers, the Board of Guardians, attach no importance to it?—They attach little importance to it, because they inherited something bad from the old system of indifference, and they stick to the old ways.

4322. You expect to get due attention to sanitary conditions by getting the sympathy of the people in support of improvement?—I think it is always well to get the sympathy of the people for any work you are doing. The most important thing, in my opinion, is to improve the condition of the people themselves by reclamation and drainage and we have done something in that direction already.

4323. When you get that sympathy it may induce the people, and therefore the rural authority, the authorized body, to take an interest in the matter, and then they will make the sanitary officers do their work?—It is to be hoped they will. They don't like, I may add, to apply compulsion to neighbours; they don't like to have him summoned at the court. It would be better if the people themselves were educated up to it.

4324. Does not that account for the fact that the sanitary laws are a dead letter, and the sanitary officers do nothing, and there is no action taken by Board of Guardians or Rural Council, I should say, because they really do not like to summon people or do anything disagreeable?—To some extent that is the explanation as far as I know. This Diocesan scheme attempts to remedy it by the system of prizes, with conditions of good sanitation, and I say it has worked well in the same way in the West.

4325. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Can you quite compare the work of the sanitary officers and of the Parish Committee. One can give grants, the other cannot. One can help a man to carry out sanitation and the other cannot. Can you compare them in any way?—Not in that way. The sanitary law does not compensate a man for doing what he ought to do.

4326. There is, nevertheless, very much room for improvement in the method of dealing with sanitary work in the local districts. There may be men willing to carry out sanitary work and unable to do so?—That is so. No doubt the Board of Guardians side itself before summoning people to the court and having them fined whether they have the means of making the improvement, and whether a shilling fine would not mean a great deal to the poor man summoned. He might be labouring in England and have very little time for looking after the sanitary arrangements of his house.

4327. Then, it is simply throwing good money after bad to prosecute a man to carry out sanitary improvements he could not possibly do?—That is the case, to some extent.

4328. The Parish Committee could assist a man to do it?—They could assist him to do the work; they could impress him with the importance of the sanitary condition of his house; they could pay him a small sum to encourage him in the work of improvement.

4329. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—I put it to you that the sanitary officers do nothing, and the law is not obeyed, and you reply that poverty is responsible to some extent. But are not the well-to-do allowed to fly in the face of sanitary laws—are you aware of that?—I think a little more could be done, but the improvement is receiving important assistance from the work of the Board among the very poorest of the people.

4330. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—One general question on the different systems of Parish Committees. I would like to ask if there is not an advantage in having varying schemes to some extent?—I think it is well to try all so as to get the best. My own observation is that the scheme we have in operation there is suitable to the West, but it is most desirable to try and see if there is a better scheme of Parish Committees than are here in the West. Another scheme may be suitable to Donegal. Let each be tried as the Board may decide.

4331. The conditions are not the same in both places. And even if it is not a better scheme, is there not an advantage in the varied experience?—Oh, yes; variety is charming, and there is an advantage in recognizing local differences of condition.

4332. Don't you think that as regards the Board's work in the country, and at different points along the coast, there may be a variety of disposition among the people, and that this difference in the disposition of the people might be met by a variety of schemes?—Yes, that is perfectly true.

4333. In the fisheries, for instance, you have the loan and also the share system?—Yes.

4334. And from the fact that there are two schemes of parish Committees, differing in their details, it does not follow that it is a disadvantage, but rather that each is adapted to its own district, and it is desirable to have two schemes.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—My question was not directed to that point. I was bringing out the chief objects of the two schemes.

4335. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—My questions were put independently. I quite concur in your question, and I followed the general drift of them with sympathy. Well, Father O'Hara, we will take it that a variety of schemes may in itself be useful—I think it very desirable, and especially from the point of view of the different conditions of the people in each district. They should have liberty to suit their own circumstances.

4336. Mr. BAYNE.—With reference to the limitation of the money grant to the people, is a distinction made between the proportion of the grant and the cost of the material used?—The amount of grant will depend upon the amount of work contracted for. We do not distinguish between cost of the labour and the cost of material. The extent of the work to be done is the only case in which the cost of material will come in.

4337. I am distinguishing between the cost of labour and the cost of material. Take the case of drainage work, the cost for material will be very much smaller in proportion to the amount of the grant expended than in the case of a dwelling-house?—So it is.

4338. Although the work of drainage would be the more important, would you consider that in making the grant?—Yes.

4339. Is it dependent on the particular case or on a set of general rules for guidance?—The full rules are clearly given, and every man working under the scheme gets copies of these rules, which give a great deal of information. We make up the specification, and that is sent on to the Congested Districts Board for approval. All the work receives their approval and supervision.

4340. Mr. BUTTERLAND.—You don't undertake large schemes through the parish Committees?—No, but we did some pretty large schemes.

4341. Did they relate to sanitation?—Yes; we sometimes carry out middling large schemes through the townlands, but a large scheme of drainage we could not undertake, but we encourage a man on his holding and send a supervisor, and the supervisor's business is to show him what to do and how to do it, and to look at the work, and when it is done to give a certificate. The drainage is part of the scheme.

4342. You said you had 160 Committees?—Yes.

4343. What is the average number of members?—The average number is six, first elected. Then the clerical and agents don't attend very often, but they are members. You might put down twelve as the average number of each Committee.

4344. That is practically an organization of 2,000 members you have located all over Ireland?—Yes.

4345. And in the congested districts?—Yes.

4346. Where Committees are established?—Yes.

4347. They are all composed of people living in the locality?—Yes, they must be living in the parish.

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4342. Mr. BAYCE.—Are the 160 Committees well spread over the congested districts; are there parish Committees in the Connaught littoral, for instance?—Yes; if you saw them on the map you could not doubt them to be better spread. You will see the same given in the report.

4343. Sir JOHN COLSON.—What report is that?—That is the report for the year 1895-6. I hope you will be satisfied with it when you go through the country. This work deserves to be encouraged, and so far from having anything taken from this part of the Board's work, I hope you will recommend that more will be expended, because there are more parishes, and I need not tell you that if one parish gets a grant of £20 and the next one gets no grant, there will be jealousy.

4344. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The Committee enables the Congested Districts Board to supervise?—Yes; it is doing the work of the Board, and in the most economical and satisfactory way that it could be done, and at the lowest cost.

4345. And by efficient people who know the local circumstances?—Yes, and by a supervisor who is a resident and knows the circumstances of the district.

4346. Mr. BAYCE.—He is paid; how much is he paid?—Generally by a percentage; it will depend on the amount of the grant; generally ten per cent.

4347. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—With regard to the £1,500 which Sir John Colson pointed out, don't you think you have a certain claim on that money for this work?

Sir JOHN COLSON.—The cost of the Donegal sanitary officers?—I am afraid Donegal claims all it can get.

4348. Mr. BAYCE.—Can you say in how many congested parishes there are Committees, and how many are there without Committees at all?—160 parishes have Committees. I could not tell you off-hand how many are without them, but there are not many in the congested districts that have been refused grants—I think nearly, if not all, that applied for grants got them.

4349. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Are there any in Kerry?—They have not been working so satisfactorily. Lord Shaftesbury was anxious to have them, and a few were formed, but I don't know with what success. The most important thing is that they should be carefully looked after at first, and that you must be strict and carry out the rules, and see that the work is done carefully, and that it is not done in a slipshod way, and that they are not allowed to do it in any way they please and say it is good enough. If they don't carry out the work in accordance with the specification, and if the supervisor does not see that that is done, all I can say is that it won't last many years. But if you do that you will get good work.

4350. Is it not the custom with your Committee before any work is done a specification is made out?—Yes, the supervisor goes and sees the work proposed to be done, and he submits a specification to the Committee, and the man who gets the grant knows what he is to do and knows the specification which he must carry out or he won't get the money.

4351. From what class are the supervisors taken?—From the more intelligent class.

4352. Are they local men in the parish?—They are, as a rule, but sometimes one supervisor may do two parishes if he is an efficient man, and if the neighbouring Committee find him more intelligent than any in their own.

4353. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Does he make out the specification?—They are given in the instructions, general specifications are given, and particular specifications are given by him.

4354. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—For a particular work?—Yes.

4355. What is the difference between Donegal and your system; is it that a specification is made out in your system, while there is none in the Donegal system?—I think there is a specification in Donegal, but the difference is not so much; it is not a matter of a real difference; it is not so very much.

4356. The CHAIRMAN.—What is the difference?—I could not tell you the difference altogether.

4357. Is there any one on the Board who particularly makes this subject his own and watches it?—Mr. Doran pays a good deal of attention to it, though he has his hands full.

4358. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You give it special attention yourself?—I did.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The Board is indebted to you and Dr. O'Donnell in the matter. In fact it is your work.

4359. The CHAIRMAN.—How long do the members he elected for?—Generally for one year, but if they are found satisfactory they get notice that if they are prepared to continue for another year they can, and if no complaint is made they are allowed to continue.

4360. For an unlimited time?—No, for another year.

4361. Are they never in for more than two years?—It may be more, but each year is separate and distinct.

4362. That is their term to the end of the year and are eligible for re-election?—Yes, and it is desirable that the same men who know the work should continue.

4363. I suppose the Parish Priest is the Chairman?—As a rule he is.

4364. Can you tell us what the works generally are which they do?—Well, the instructions handed in will show you; the works are improvements of houses, putting in windows—in the poor districts the windows are very small, and they cannot let in the air—enlarging the windows, putting in new doors, connecting doors—

4365. I don't mean details so much. You say the improvement of houses?—Yes, and out-offices and general surroundings, in fact anything that may be looked on as an improvement of the farm, or of the condition of the man of the farm. They are not limited, they make improvements, and the people are satisfied, and there are no hard and fast lines. It is one of the reasons of the success of the Board that they too had some independence and were not bound like some Government departments by hard and fast lines.

4366. Are the works entirely confined to the house or do they get grants for work outside the house?—They get grants for all sorts of improvements on the land as well as for houses.

4367. Fencing, for instance?—Yes, fencing if useful work—not as a rule, but it may be given, but it must be work of permanent improvement. Fencing is sometimes work of permanent improvement. There is nothing to prevent them from giving it.

4368. A man who wishes to get a grant sends in an application to the Parish Committee, then you consider it and send a supervisor to see what he proposes to do, and if the supervisor reports favourably, then you agree to give the man a certain grant?—We have a little more supervision. They send off the application to Dublin, and they see that everything is right. They want to be careful that none of the money shall be unaccounted for, and in the office in Dublin the application is read over carefully, and they see there is not too much given for any work, or a grant given for a work which ought not to be given, and when that comes back the secretary or the supervisor informs the man "you can begin now."

4369. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would not the details of the specification be examined in Dublin?—Yes; that must be done so that he may know that everything is in order.

4370. The CHAIRMAN.—The application is sent to Dublin with the supervisor's report?—That is so.

4371. So that practically the Board in Dublin have the final power to decide whether the work shall be done or not?—Yes.

4372. Is a report sent by the Committee recommending the Board to allow the thing to be done?—The fact of sending on the application is first approved of by the Committee, and when the work is done Mr. Doran sends an inspector to see how the work is done in general, so that everything is as well done, I think, and as well safeguarded as it could be.

4373. You have told us that the grants to Parish Committees from the Board vary from £20 to £320 a year; how is the actual amount decided?—By the extent of the parish, the number of poor people under £7 valuation—to grant is given to any man whose valuation is over £7. When a grant is being apportioned we take into account how many families under £7 valuation there are in the parish, and we calculate it to give to each parish what it is entitled to by population.

4374. Irrespective altogether of the number of demands that come in, do you, for instance, say here is a parish with so many families under £7 valuation, they are entitled to so much, and we will send the amount to the Parish Committee irrespective altogether

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of whether you hear from the Parish Committee that demands up to a certain amount have come in?—No; they only send half the amount at first, and when that is exhausted and they get more applications they send the other half. If there is any surplus at the end of the year it has to be returned. A man may undertake work which he is not able to do, or a man may not get the full amount, as he may not have done the work satisfactorily. Each Committee must close up at the end of the year and send in any money that may be on hand.

4374. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is a man over £7 valuation entitled to make a demand for this work?—No; any man of over £7 is regarded as better off than his neighbours, and the object is to help the poorest.

4375. The CHAIRMAN.—The amount of a grant, not for a Parish Committee, but to an individual, is that settled by the supervisor or by the Parish Committee?—By the Parish Committee.

4376. And approved of by the Board?—Yes.

4377. You have told the Commission that the supervisors are good local men of intelligence?—Yes.

4378. They are paid?—Yes, about ten per cent. of the amount of the grant.

4379. Is that the sole cost of the administration of the Parish Committee?—That and five per cent. up to £5 is the total cost; there is no further cost; the Secretary gets five per cent. up to £5; no matter how much the grant may be the Secretary could not get more than £5.

4380. That (standing witness a document) is Mr. O'Brien's evidence? I think in the answer marked at your right hand you will see that Mr. O'Brien says the cost of the administration of these Parish Committees in Cavanagh and Munster is ten per cent. of the grant!—That is so.

4381. You agree with that?—Yes, that is my experience; we have tried to do it as economically as we could, and it could not be done more so.

4382. Mr. BRYCE.—How is it that the Supervisor gets 10 per cent. and the Secretary £5?—Ten per cent. for the Supervisor, and five for the Secretary.

4383. The CHAIRMAN.—That at the point I was coming to?—Yes, I see. "The remuneration is usually a lump sum for the season, representing about 5 per cent. on the grant, the Committee paying one-half out of the grant, and the Board the other half." It comes to the same thing. It is as I said. These are the terms, that the Secretary gets 5 per cent. up to £5. The Supervisor generally gets, he may get up to 10 per cent. of the grant.

4384. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—As a rule, does he get the full 10 per cent.?—Up to this, in very few cases.

4385. The CHAIRMAN.—It is because they have not got the full amount that Mr. O'Brien tells us that the average works out at 10 per cent.?—They are entitled only according to the arrangement made with them. Sometimes you might find a Supervisor to do the work for a little less than a man would elsewhere. But in the instructions you will see.

4386. Anyway your experience is that you agree with Mr. O'Brien that about 10 per cent. is about the average cost of administration?—No, I don't think that is strictly accurate.

4387. Tell us what it is?—At present it is 10 per cent. for the Supervisor, and 5 per cent. for the Secretary.

4388. Can you tell us what was the total grant to the Parish Committee last year?—It cost the Board about £12,000, the total, including supervision and all, very close on £12,000.

4389. What was the gross amount of administration—the cost last year of the administration of the Parish Committee?—Last year it cost—I see Mr. O'Brien is correct—supervision cost £1,050, and the total amount voted was £10,950, that is exactly £12,000.

4390. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—£10,950?—For supervision and all £12,000.

4391. The CHAIRMAN.—£12,000 was the amount given?—£10,950 was voted by the Board to be expended during the current financial year for grants to various parishes, and also £1,050 for supervision—that is £12,000.

4392. Supervision applies to the work of the Board?—Yes.

4393. Could you tell us the cost of local administration?—This that was handed in by the Secretary

shows the total amount given to people as £10,950; for expending that, supervision cost £1,050, practically 10 per cent. of the total, so that Mr. O'Brien is correct, for this was in the estimate. You will see the Board met aside £12,000.

4394. Mr. SCHRIMMANN.—Does this work of supervision include where specifications have to be written out and plans made?—It includes everything.

4395. It is analogous to an outside architect's charges if he was employed?—He has not so much to do in that way. Mr. Dwyer drew up a scheme, and drew it up carefully and well. If a Supervisor has schemes for the building of a house, or if he wants to build out-offices he has a plan and a scheme for that, and there are printed forms, and he gives one to the man who applies for the grant.

4396. The CHAIRMAN.—Have you any experience as to which is the cheapest as regards administration between the Mayo and the Donegal plan?—The Donegal plan is only in existence for a short time; I think it is not more than two years in existence.

4397. I think it is more than that—I have figures to show the amount spent in the last three years?—It is, I think, either two or three years. Of course the Secretary will be able to tell you fully how much the Supervisors cost in Donegal.

4398. If you look at Mr. O'Brien's evidence again you will see he told us that the Supervisors were paid each 25s. a week and 7s. 6d. a week bycycle allowance in Donegal?—But you must remember that those Supervisors cover a good deal more ground. That was for the whole of Donegal.

4399. In Donegal the salaries of these men are 25s. a week and 7s. 6d. a week bycycle allowance for so of them. That is £24 a year per head, or over £260 a year?—They only work for part of the year; but the whole of the information that you want, or most of it, will be given in the instructions. All that you want to know about the work and its cost and the amount to be given for special works and so on you will get in the instructions for supervisors.

4400. Can you tell us at all how much the actual salaries of Supervisors in Donegal come to?—I could not off-hand, but the Secretaries could tell you.

4401. It is £250?—It is given down here as the estimate.

4402. The estimate for the year is £24 per head for six men—that is £200?—Yes.

4403. Mr. Mitchell handed in a report with regard to Parish Committees in which he told us that within the last three years in Donegal £1,964 had been granted to Parish Committees, and £505 in the year on Supervisors' fees comes out at about 25 per cent. of the total cost of the grant for three years?—Yes.

4404. Or if you take it another way. If that £505 is at all an accurate estimate of the yearly cost, you get £1,500 as the amount which the work of the Supervisors has cost, whereas the total amount of the grant for that period has been only £1,960, or 75 per cent. of the grant has been the cost of supervision. Does that not seem too expensive?

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Might I suggest to you there is another way of looking at this. I would suggest you should compare the cost of supervision, not with the amount of the contribution, but with the cost of the entire completed work, so that you must multiply the amount of the grant by five, which Father O'Hara tells us, is the amount of the work completed, before you can come to a proportion between the cost of supervision and the cost of the work.

4405. The CHAIRMAN.—The facts appear to be that in Donegal the estimate of the cost of supervision is £505 a year, and the amount, according to Mr. Mitchell's memorandum is £1,500 for three years?—That is for one year.

4406. I understand it was for three years?—No.

4407. The CHAIRMAN.—Can you tell us how many of these Parish Committees there are in Kerry, or can you tell us the amount of money allocated for Cork and Kerry?—There is £1,500 for Parish Committees in Cork and Kerry.

4408. In one year?—In one year.

4409. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—The value of the work done in that year is £15,000?—Yes.

4410. Can you tell us how much for Cork and Kerry £1,250?

4411. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—Is that being expended in Kerry?—It is being expended in Kerry on Parish Committee works. That was the expenditure in Kerry.

4412. The CHAIRMAN.—There are not many congested districts in Cork?—In West Cork—Berehaven,

* See answer to question 1625.

Bantry, and Adrigole. I think I am almost correct in saying that the Board did not, for the last year, refuse any parish a grant.

4415. Have you attempted to apportion the money, to divide it as far as you can all round the congested areas?—We have. As I have stated I don't think there was a parish refused a grant. We divided indiscriminately, and we divided fairly.

4416. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—There was no parish refused a grant?—I think not, except in some cases where there was a very good reason. A few parishes were found not to be working satisfactorily and were struck off.

4417. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Some parishes have not formed committees?—They have not. The Board have acted on this principle that where men were found to be working satisfactorily and were doing good work they thought it a pity, as long as they were only at the commencement of their work to deprive them of the grant. They get them every year and the neighbouring parish sees this, which is the very thing that we want, and the neighbouring parish gets jealous and wants to do the same kind of work and applies for a grant, and it would be pretty hard for the Board to supply the one and refuse the other, and it is in that way that the amount has grown up to £125,000, and I think if we continue the work it will have to increase a little more because there will be other parishes coming in that have not yet applied; and I repeat I think you will find that no part of the Board's work has given more satisfaction.

4418. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you think that this work which you have done in regard to Parish Committees has been made easier by the fact that the Board has been a kind of independent body?—I believe so. I believe it is one of the reasons of the success of the Board from the beginning.

4419. Can you tell us why you have that opinion?—The Irish people, as a rule, don't like anything coming from the Castle. If it gets the taint of the Castle about it they don't like to touch it.

4420. Suppose that the new department was to allocate funds in the way you have done in regard to Parish Committees will you explain to the Committee why you think that a taint of the Castle would apply to the new department. I suppose you are aware that the new department, so far as agricultural work is concerned, does its work entirely through the aid of county committees and under County Councils and Agricultural Councils; where does the taint come in in the matter?—Some way or other they are officials. They are looked upon as officials—the people connected with it.

4421. Is the county committee that dispenses money regarded as a Castle Board?—Not the County Committee, because the County Committee has nothing to do with the Castle, but those at the head of the department are looked upon as officials. One of the reasons of the success of the Board from the beginning was that the country at large looked upon it as an independent Board, free from all Government or Castle control.

4422. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But the money was official?—The money came through the Board.

4423. The CHAIRMAN.—There is no objection to receiving official money so long as it is not dispensed by officials?—I suppose if it comes through the proper channels they will consent to accept it.

4424. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Was the money all Irish money?—All Irish money except a very small sum.

4425. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The very small sum was accepted?—Yes. We are grateful for small things when we get them. They are all we have to be grateful for.

4426. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—If the financial relations were adjusted it would be more?—Yes; if we got that two and a half millions we would soon raise Connaught from the position in which it is.

4427. The CHAIRMAN.—You are satisfied with the success of the parish Committee work, and believe that it could not be achieved by any Government department?—I am so satisfied with the success that I believe when you hear of it in the country you will be just as enthusiastic about it as I am. There is no work which the Board undertook that gave such satisfaction to the people and gave such a good return for the outlay on it.

4428. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You say you do not give grants except to people whose valuations are under £71?—That is so.

4429. Do you find that the work which these people do on their own holdings has had an educative effect on the people who are rated at over £71?—It has. It has an educative effect on the whole district. A man sees his neighbour under proper supervision and instruction improve his land in certain ways, and even though he does not get a grant at all he tries to imitate him.

4430. Have you found that people rated at over £71 copy in any way the improvements effected by those of a lower valuation?—Yes. I believe they have copied, and improved themselves by copying.

4431. So that the effect of the grants you give goes beyond the number of people to whom you give them?—Yes. The effects are so large that it is hard to state what the effects are.

4432. Sir JOHN COOKE.—You said just now that the rule of the Board was that all money unexpended at the end of the year in the hands of the Committees was returned?—That is so.

4433. As a matter of fact, is any money ever returned?—Very often. There is scarcely a Committee that has not to return some small sums: for this reason, that they are bound to have the works done within a certain time, and, as I said a few minutes ago, they must be very strict, and if they find people undertaking to do work that they find afterwards they cannot do, the money voted for that and any small sums remaining unexpended at the end of the year have to be returned.

4434. Then you regard it as an essential principle of success in the working of these parish Committees that there should be a body to be very strict over them?—Yes, you must be very careful for the success of the scheme. The more strict you are at the beginning, the better it will be for the work of the Committee.

4435. In view of the rule that money unexpended at the end of the financial year must be returned, has there been observable any desire to expend recklessly at the end of the year rather than return the money?—They cannot do that, even if they tried, because the rules are so strict. We only allow a certain sum for each particular work, and if we get that work done, whether it is at the beginning of the year or the end, we don't mind.

4436. I understood you to say that you made your grant in two separate contributions in the year?—The Board send down the total grant to the parish in two separate contributions.

4437. Therefore, in the last half-year, the Parish Committee have in their hands the whole of the half-year's contributions?—No, because the first is paid out before the second is sent.

4438. You mean you divide the annual contribution into two portions and pay the first?—When it is earned.

4439. Not until it is earned?—Not until it is earned as a rule.

4440. You pay the contributions, but not until they are earned?—The whole amount may not be earned. They may want to have some money in hand. If the parish is to get £100, they get £50 first, and that may be as soon as they find applications for payment come in and the Committee require it.

4441. The only other point is about the non-working of the sanitary laws. You don't maintain that one of the reasons of the sanitary officers not doing their work is because they are Castle officials?—I don't want to press that point.

4442. You know they are appointed by the elected District Council?—Yes. That is the reason that I say I don't want to put them down as Castle officials.

4443. The CHAIRMAN.—I want to understand really why you hold that these parish Committees could not have been created by anyone except an independent Board. I understand you have the work practically in the hands of the parish Committee in a congested district; you do not interfere very much with their arrangements; is that so?—That is so. Of course everything has to be done. They have the lines laid down, and they must act strictly on those lines.

4444. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You lay down the general policy and they follow it. You let them follow it themselves. In that lies the success of the whole scheme. You bring in local feeling?—Yes.

4445. What is to prevent a Government department doing exactly as you have done?—I know, at all

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events, that no Government department tried it, and therefore they did not succeed with it.

4447. I have no doubt you had this idea before anybody else, and we give you every credit for it; but suppose some intelligent individual connected with a Government department had had this brilliant notion, what was to prevent him from carrying it out?—It may work, but I believe it would not work to the same successful extent.

4448. Why not?—It is very hard to satisfy the Commission on this, but it is a fact, what I have stated, that it has been found in Ireland that works of the kind coming from bodies independent of the Castle, are more likely to be taken up by the people than anything coming from the Castle.

4449. The CHAIRMAN.—Don't you mean that, that where there is direct administration from what you call the Castle it is not as successful as administration which goes through the crucible of a local committee?—Yes.

4450. But as there anything to prevent a Government Department as such creating as successful a local committee as you have created?—Strictly, I suppose there is nothing. I could not say there is. The only thing is sentiment, and sentiment to some extent influences everybody.

4451. Do you mean to say you think that the people throughout Ireland would not accept so readily a similar committee if it had been created by a Government Department and not by an independent Board?—I believe it would not have shown such successful results as the Board have been able to show.

4452. The local committee would not have?—If the local committee were started; now that they are started I will be ready to admit they would if they went on the same lines; but starting from the beginning I believe they would not be taken up by the people in the way they were.

4453. Take it that way. Suppose this work was handed over to, say, the new Department do you see any difficulty in the new Department creating parish committees and allowing them to proceed on the basis that you have adopted?—No; I don't. I cannot say that I do see any difficulty, except, perhaps, that the people at present, I think, are not so satisfied with the other works that they have been doing, and they might be doubtful about taking over this from a body that had been doing so well.

4454. Even if the lines were to be the same?—Yes.

4455. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you think that the Department up to this has done any work through Parish Committees?—I am not aware that it has.

4456. I want to ask you a general question. Do the public boards in Ireland do their work so well that it is a safe thing to suggest taking work from a Board that has succeeded and giving it to another Board?—That is what I say. When people have been successful it is a mistake to hand the work over to another body that they have no experience of or confidence in to the same extent.

4457. Take the case of the supervisors. Is it a fact that the supervisors in Donegal are appointed by the Congested Districts Board?—They are appointed by the Board.

4458. Is it not the case then that the credit of the Board passes through these supervisors to the work in which they are engaged?—That is so.

4459. If the Department were placed in the position of the Board something corresponding should happen?—Something corresponding should happen, if it were in the same position.

4460. If the people have not the same confidence in the Department as they now have in the Congested Districts Board the supervisors would not be so effective for their work?—I don't think they would. The matter may appear strange and, perhaps, unintelligible, but nevertheless what I state I think will be found to be correct.

4461. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It is all an hypothesis that the future will be exactly like the past. Refuse the hypothesis and the whole thing falls to the ground?—We are hoping that the future will be not exactly as the past.

4462. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The hypothesis of taking the work from the Congested Districts Board assumes that it is safe in Ireland to put an untried body in place of a tried body?—That is the natural conclusion that would follow: that whenever a Board is found to have done its work satisfactorily the best

thing to do is to abolish it and transfer its work to some other body that has not been so successful.

4463. The CHAIRMAN.—It is not a very violent hypothesis to assume that reasonable people will follow well marked lines of success?—No.

4464. The CHAIRMAN.—I should like to make clear that point that we were dealing with before lunch in connection with the cost of the two systems of Parish Committees in Connaught and Donegal. Sir ANTHONY suggested we should include the value of work done in estimating the percentage in the two places, but my point was irrespective altogether of the value of work done either in Connaught or Donegal. My point was that Mr. O'Brien has told us, and I agree with him, that the cost of administration in Connaught did, I believe, amount to ten per cent. of the grant?—That is so.

4465. Irrespective altogether of the value of the work performed?—Yes.

4466. In Donegal we were told the grant for one year?—I made a mistake in thinking it was for three years—is about £9,000. The cost of administration, of six supervisors in that county amounts to £500, or twenty-five per cent. of the grant. So it appears that whereas in Connaught and Munster the cost is ten per cent. of the grant in Donegal it is twenty-five per cent. of the grant, or fifteen per cent. more expensive?—That would appear.

4467. I am not in the least suggesting that there are not reasons for that. It is quite possible, is not it?—It is quite possible, and I think it is well to let it be known that in Donegal the grants are smaller than in Connaught, the grants in proportion to the amount of work, but the amount the supervisor has to do is much more. His work extends over a much longer period of the year, and he has more territory to cover.

4468. Do you suggest that the work done by the supervisors in Donegal is more than the work done by the supervisors in Connaught?—Yes, because the work of the supervisor in Connaught is confined to one parish, whereas in Donegal it extends to several parishes.

4469. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Without questioning the importance of the point which has been put to you by the Chairman, you are aware, as Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL suggested earlier in the day, that the value of the work done in Donegal is very great in the year?—Yes. I have stated the grants are much less and the work is much more.

4470. The value of the work done is £15,000?—£15,000.

4471. The expenditure on supervision is £500?—£500.

4472. That is to say, the £500 is expended on supervising £15,000?—Yes.

4473. Is that 3 1/3 per cent.?—Yes.

4474. The CHAIRMAN.—How does that work out in comparison with Connaught and Munster?—We have not calculated the amount per cent. it would represent in Connaught on the total amount of work done, but I think you may take it, as far as I know about the scheme, that in each place the Supervisors are giving value for the money. Perhaps it may look at first sight as if it were a little more costly in Donegal than in Connaught.

4475. It would look as if it were?—It would at first sight.

4476. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You have said that in Connaught the value of the work done was four or five, or six or six times the grant?—Roughly, perhaps, about five times.

4477. That would work out at about 3 per cent. so that there would not be much difference?—There would not be very much difference when you work it out in that way.

4478. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Are these rules, the rules and instructions and suggestions as to Parish Committees—are they of general application to the whole of the congested districts?—They are. They are prepared by Mr. Doran, and every Supervisor goes according to them. He must carry out those instructions.

4479. I understood you to say that 5 per cent. of the amount of grants to each parish was the allowance for the Secretary, but that it should not be above 2 1/2?—That is so.

4480. But look at this regulation, which says, "Provided that such percentage does not amount to over £5 in a parish where a scheme is in operation from

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October to March 31st, and £10 where it is in operation from May to March 31st"—In the West the schemes up to this year were from October to March. This year we are going to enlarge them, because several Committees asked for a longer time to finish the work, and we thought then it was only fair if a Supervisor were required to give more time he should get more money.

4461. I am speaking of the Secretary, Rule 4, page 11. It mentions that the Board have appointed 5 per cent. of the amount of the grant in each parish as the remuneration, and continues, "Provided that such percentage does not amount to over £5 in a parish where a scheme is in operation from October to March 31st, and £10 where it is in operation from May to March 31st." I would like to know why there is a difference in the two periods of the year?—The period is longer. It is practically over the whole year in one case. It is only for six months in the other case. From May to March is practically twelve months.

4462. Who rules whether a scheme is in operation or not?—Mr. Doran expresses. One of his officers goes round and sees, and the Parish Committee make application to the Board to have the time extended, and then if they give good reasons for extending the time it is extended. Suppose the season was very bad, they could not carry out the works they undertook; suppose men were away in England and not back as soon as was expected, in those cases exceptions were made.

4463. What I want to know is this particularly applicable to, and does it arise from the fact that you are dealing with districts where the labour is migratory?—Yes.

4464. But this rule is not specially limited to those districts where there is a migratory population, but applies to all congested districts?—It is applicable to the districts where it can be shown that they have good reason for asking for an extension of the time. Through the Parish Committee any further scheme of agricultural development that may be considered suitable and best for the district can easily be carried out. The machinery is ready at hand, and the people will go with each other in improving their land under proper direction as they are viewing now with each other in improving their houses and surroundings. Through the Parish Committee a better system of agriculture would soon become general and better methods of farm management would soon be followed. Too much should not be expected in a short time, however, for permanent improvements can be brought about only by a slow, gradual process, and persistent efforts. I don't know that there is much to be added unless there are some questions to be asked.

4465. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Could you carry out persistent spraying operations through your Parish Committees?—You could.

4466. Would they have influence in getting the people to spray three times a year?—I think you may say it the Parish Committee would have influence with the people in every way, and if they could show them that it was for the benefit of themselves they would be guided by the Parish Committee and carry out the Parish Committee instructions.

4467. Are the people sufficiently persuaded of the advantages of spraying to render the injunctions of the Parish Committee effective?—They are. They are sufficiently instructed as to the necessity and advantage of spraying, though I am sorry to say they did not spray so well this year as they might, as I explained yesterday.

4468. Did the Parish Committee endeavour to make them spray that year?—I would not say exactly they did. Perhaps they should, and it would be one of the works they ought to attend to.

4469. Mr. KAVANAGH.—That was in consequence of the good crop last year?—I believe it was owing to the good crop last year. Those who sprayed and those who did not spray last year were nearly all alike.

4470. Mr. BAYNE.—May I ask here the Agricultural Department continued the policy which you initiated of supplying these spraying machines under cost price?—I don't think they did, at least I have not heard that they have. I think I heard they started in pursuit of the blight, but they failed to catch it. When they heard it came they then made great efforts to try to stop it.

4471. So the work the Congested Districts Board was doing before the handing over of that Board or its operations to the Board of Agriculture has not been

continued?—I think you will hear probably complaints in the districts to which you will go that it has not been continued, and they are not so satisfied, I believe, with the way the Agricultural Department have done the work as with the way the Board have done it.

4472. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Why was that part of the work taken away from the Congested Districts Board and given to the Agricultural Department?—Of course I could not tell you that exactly. It was the wish of certain parties that that part of the work should be given over, and the Board assented to it and gave £20,000 to the Department. As they were operating in the same districts there might be some overlapping.

4473. You are of opinion that it has not been so well carried out since it was taken away from the Congested Districts Board as it was before?—I don't like to say anything in favour of one as against the other, but the general opinion appears to be that it was not carried out since it was taken over by the Department. I believe you will find that opinion in the various districts.

4474. If the Congested Districts Board is to exist in the future, you would be of the opinion that that work should be sent back to the Congested Districts Board—given back to them?—I think it would be desirable that it should.

4475. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That is part and parcel of the larger question of concentrating the attention of the Congested Districts Board on what was supposed to be peculiarly its province, namely, dealing with the land. The object was—was it not—to concentrate attention upon migration and upon the purchase and improvement of holdings, making over everything that could be made over, to the Department, which was ready to receive it?—That is so, and for the other reason, we were operating in the same districts with animals and other things, it was thought for the double reason that the Board would have enough to do to devote its attention to as the land, and that as the Department was operating in the same way in adjoining districts, and in the same counties, it would be well to give over that portion of the Board's work to the Department.

4476. The CHAIRMAN.—What year are you alluding to?—Between two and three years ago, when the agricultural work of the Board was transferred to the Department.

4477. On the question of the transfer of functions, when the Department of Agriculture was created, do you know whether it was considered at that time by the Government of the day whether it would be advisable to hand over these agricultural functions to the Department newly created?—I don't believe there was any intention at the time of interfering with the discussion or with the work of the Board at the time, because it was long after. It was after the passing of the 1903 Act.

4478. When the Department was created, you don't think there was any idea of handing over any of the Board's functions?—No, I believe it was the intention of the Act of 1893 that the Board should operate in the congested districts in every way that would be for the benefit of those districts.

4479. It is very curious—I don't know whether you have noticed it, but it is a curious fact that the two occasions on which the Board has received an addition to its income, so far as I know, were in 1899, when the new Department was created, and in 1903, when the Land Act was passed. You got £25,000 a year on the first occasion and £20,000 a year, I think, on the second?—Yes, and on that point I might read a letter, if I am permitted to read it, from Mr. Wyndham.

4480. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is it an official letter?—It is an official letter.

4481. Sir JOHN COLSON.—To the Board?—Yes.

4482. Is it on the minutes of the Board?—It is on the minutes of the Board. His lordship was this morning saying, that according to Mr. Wyndham's minute, it appeared to be his wish or his intention that the £20,000 should go for land, and I am glad to say I have a letter here that Mr. Wyndham wrote to the Board, which shows the purpose for which it was intended.

4483. The CHAIRMAN.—The £20,000 grant was given in 1903?—Yes.

4484. Sir JOHN COLSON.—You are referring first of all to his letter in the Memorandum C?—Yes. There is no need to read the whole of the letter, but just this one paragraph. The date is 1903, when they were thinking of bringing in the Act of 1903.—

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"I feel sure by an increase of the annual grant of from £5,000 up to £20,000 on the formulation of the detailed scheme of allocation by the Board, such a scheme will provide also for fisheries, industries, and parish Committees, &c., on the lines provisionally approved of at our last meeting."* That is July, 1902.

4525. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is the date of the minute of Mr. Wyndham which was read this morning?—I only read that, as Lord Dudley appeared to think the Board did not apply the money for the purposes for which it was intended.

4526. Mr. BRYCE.—Have you got that in evidence?—Not until now.

The CHAIRMAN.—The other minute was 13th October, 1903.

4527. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The letter which you read out is in the year 1902?—Yes.

4528. But it is necessarily superseded by the minute of Mr. Wyndham's read out to-day, which is dated a year afterwards?—But he is hoping in 1902 to get the increase of £20,000.

4529. The CHAIRMAN.—In 1903 he got it?—In 1903 we got it. The only point I wanted to make, my lord, is this, that you appeared to think that when we got it instead of applying it for the purpose for which it was originally intended, we gave it to everything else except the one thing.

4530. You misunderstood me if I gave you that impression; that was not my point at all; my reason for trying to press you a little on the point was this, I wanted to try and show that the claims upon you with regard to operations other than those of land purchase were so strong that when you got that £20,000 increase you found it necessary to spend a large portion of it in industries, fisheries, and works and other things?—Yes.

4531. It was rather with a view of trying to make clear that there is besides the land work of the Board very definite work for it to do in connection with these other things, especially in those regions which Mr. Doran has marked A upon his map?—I was afraid that the other members of the Commission might think—

4532. No, I did not in the least mean to suggest it?—Well, I am glad of that.

4533. Mr. BRYCE.—Where this transference to the new Department was in contemplation, was it not considered whether it was desirable, as a consolidation was about to be effected by a transference of the agricultural work, that there should also be a transference of the industrial and fisheries work to the new Department?—Not at the time.

4534. The new Department has the fisheries work now?—It has not the fisheries work of the Board.

4535. So if it was thought desirable to have the transference of the agricultural work, one would have thought that it would have been desirable also to have had the transference of the other work?—It is true that it would look as if it should also, but Mr. Wyndham and some others were so anxious that the Board should concentrate all its powers on the land that this small scheme would be taken out of the hands of the Board and given over to the Department, and they did not at that time take into consideration, or at least it was not discussed whether anything else should be given over.

4536. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—May I ask you to reconsider that statement, whether it was taken into consideration or discussed; might I suggest to you, Father O'Hara, that it was discussed, but the reasons which prevailed with the Board were that we should proceed step by step gradually?—I meant, Sir Anthony, that it never came up as a thing that the Board would consider seriously about giving away; it was considered in an informal way, but there was no motion, as far as I knew, on the Agenda Paper on that question ever; it was informally mentioned, but that was all.

4537. Mr. BRYCE.—May I ask you if it was with the good will of the Board that this agricultural work, which they had been doing apparently successfully, was handed over to the Department?—We gave them our blessing at the time if it was any good to them.

4538. Mr. KAVANAGH.—It was a saving of money to you, was it not?—It was a saving of a little money.

4539. Mr. DORAN gave us evidence on that head; I thought it was a saving of some thousands a year?—A few thousands.

4540. The CHAIRMAN.—£2,000 a year?—Not at all. 4541. Mr. BRYCE.—But, as I gather from the report, you are of opinion that you are not getting value for the £20,000 you give?—All I know is the congested districts were not satisfied; we did not wish to interfere, and I, as a member of the Board, don't wish to say anything, but you will get evidence from the people in the districts as to dissatisfaction with the way the Department have done their work.

4542. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—If there be any doubt about the result of the experiment so far as it has gone it does not look as if there was much encouragement to continue in the same line of transference of work?—I think that is evident; if we find the little we gave away was not done satisfactorily there is no encouragement to give them any more.

4543. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Coming back to the expression of opinion that the opinion prevailed that the Agricultural Department did not do the work as well as the Congested Districts Board, I want to ask you this question; there was certain work transacted by the Congested Districts Board through the Parish Committees, and that was transferred to the Agricultural Department; is not that so?—No, sir; that is not correct.

4544. Then, perhaps, I can get at it in this way; was there any of that work or operations done through the Parish Committees transferred to the Agricultural Department?—No, there was no part of the Parish Committee work ever transferred to the Department.

4545. Then, when you say that the general opinion is that the work is not so well done by the Agricultural Department as it was by the Congested Districts Board to what are you referring?—I am referring to the Land Stock Schemes and all the other agricultural work the Board used to do, except that done through the Parish Committees.

4546. And no transfer of work from the Congested Districts Board to the Agricultural Department in the least affects the operations of the Parish Committees?—Not in the least.

4547. The CHAIRMAN.—You told me just now that as far as you remember there was no question in 1899 of transferring any of your functions?—My recollection is that it never came formally before the Board as a matter of consideration; it might be discussed informally, that was all.

4548. What was the reason you got £25,000 in 1899?—I think we got it because it was believed we were doing pretty good work and could utilise it as well as any other body.

4549. It was thought then that there was so little overlapping between your work and the work which the new department was going to do that the Government went so far as to increase your funds for this work?—Yes, that is so.

4550. Then in four years time it became necessary for various reasons to transfer some of your work to the Department?—Yes.

4551. And your explanation of that is that it was to enable you to devote more money to the land operations?—Yes; that is the explanation.

4552. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—Was there not also this general feeling, Father O'Hara, that the Congested Districts Board as, in its nature, a transient Board, and the Department of Agriculture is a permanent section of the State organization, and that it was desirable to transfer from the transient to the permanent organization such work in connection with which there was overlapping?—I cannot say that that influenced to any extent the decision the Board came to at the time.

4553. The CHAIRMAN.—You told Mr. Kavanagh that you did not think the money set free by the transference was as much as £2,000?—No; I think the Board's secretary will be able to tell us how much was the estimate for each year for that work; it might be £2,000.

4554. The estimate for this year shows that you propose to spend on agriculture, £2,777?—That is a different thing; that was before the transfer.

4555. This is since the transfer; this is the estimate for this year?—Yes; it is different altogether.

4556. I don't think it is, as a matter of fact, and I will show you why; this is the sum you propose to spend this year?—Yes.

4557. In 1901-02, before the transfer, if you look at the figures you will see you spent £11,000?—Yes.

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4533. Mr. KAVANAGH.—A saving of \$5,000?—Yes; it appears it would come to nearly \$8,000.

4534. Mr. BRYCE.—The \$2,700 that the Chairman has alluded to, what is that; is that going to the Department; have you increased your grant of \$5,000 to the Department?—No; we are not likely to do that.

4535. Are you beginning to spend on agriculture again on your own account?—It is \$2,000 to the Department and \$700 for agricultural shows; we were in the habit of giving to shows all over the congested districts certain sums, and the \$2,700 is made up in that way, \$2,000 to the Department, and \$700 for agricultural shows, and \$400 for organizing banks and other charges.

4536. Won't that overlap with what the Department is doing in the way of giving to shows?—No, because the amounts we give are confined to the congested districts; if they give anything for shows it is confined to the other districts.

4537. Does it not seem rather unnecessary, after having handed over the whole business with a grant to them, that you should again begin under another head and give sums for agricultural development?—We shall be very glad to be relieved under that head.

4538. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—When you transferred agriculture to the Department did you reserve to yourselves the right of intervening in any poor localities to support agricultural industries?—Yes, and in these agricultural shows there are industries which we keep in our own hands and some of the grant would go for that.

4539. The CHAIRMAN.—Surely an agricultural show is mainly of agricultural produce?—As a rule, but they generally have other sections.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—There is a home industries department.

4540. The CHAIRMAN.—But that is generally a very small part of an agricultural show?—Yes, it is.

4541. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is it felt that money given for the purpose of encouraging shows is money very well spent?—I believe that is the feeling in the country.

4542. Would it come to this, that if there is a double grant, one from the Department and one from the Board, both grants would be usefully expended?—I believe they would.

4543. The CHAIRMAN.—I don't quite understand why you should spend money on that at all. If the new Department has taken over the duty of agricultural development, why should you spend money on agricultural shows?—There is no doubt that as they are taken over by the Department they could not reasonably expect we should contribute, but still, as we were in the habit of giving grants to these shows, and shows were held in congested districts, and industries were raised up with them, we thought we might continue the grants where the shows were desisting.

4544. I suppose you have to think of the effect on the congested districts?—Exactly; we always confine our grants of prizes to persons within the congested districts.

4545. Does it seem to you that perhaps if you refused to give any grants at all to these things people might understand it in the congested districts?—Well, we would like, if possible, no doubt, to stand well, but I think we did not let these considerations affect us to that extent.

4546. Mr. BRYCE.—Have you attempted to estimate at all what value you get for the \$2,000 in the congested districts?—Well, we did not like to go into that; we gave it over to them and thought it better we should not make any further inquiries.

4547. Do you think that is a good principle to go on of giving a grant when you are not getting any value for it?—It was undertaken after the passing of the Act of 1903 that that part of the Board's work would be given over to the Department, and I think it is not a good principle for one body to be trying to watch closely the operations of another.

4548. But still it diminished your funds which were available for other purposes, and do you think it was not part of the duty of the Board to form an opinion as to whether it was getting value for the \$2,000?—It diminished our funds, and also gave us a little more for other purposes; it only diminished our funds to the extent of \$2,000, and it saved us about \$3,000.

4549. Sir F. MOWAT.—But is the \$2,000 entered as expenditure on agricultural business—the \$2,000 you have handed over?—That is the \$2,000 we have handed over.

4550. Ah, then you are not expending \$2,000 on agricultural matters yourselves besides?—No, all that we expend on agriculture at present, and not all of it on agriculture, is \$700.

4551. Mr. BRYCE.—With regard to that money that you are spending on shows—I think it is rather an important point, although it is a small item comparatively—have you compared the principle on which you give the money for prizes at agricultural shows with the principle on which the Department do it?—Yes, we have.

4552. And you do it on a different principle?—Not on a different principle.

4553. You both spend money on shows, but is there any difference in the way in which you employ the money from the way in which they employ it?—I don't think there is; there is no difference in the way; it is only a difference in the territory.

4554. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Does not the Show Committee arrange that?—The Show Committee arrange.

4555. Mr. BRYCE.—You mean the system on which you distribute this money is a system drawn up in consultation with the Department?—It has to be submitted, I suppose, to the Department, as it has to be submitted to us.

4556. Sir A. MACDONNELL.—Is it not merely a subsidy that you give in aid of the funds of the show?—That is so; it is nothing more or less than a contribution to the funds.

4557. Mr. BRYCE.—Then the shows are not got up by you?—No.

4558. In some districts in Ireland I know, from talking to parish priests and others, there is a good deal of dissatisfaction at the way in which the money is given to shows by the Department, they say it does not produce proper results, and they have ideas of their own with regard to it. Now you have explained that you have nothing to do with the system on which the prizes are given?—All we do is we give a contribution and ask them to submit to us a scheme for distributing the amounts we give.

4559. I see—then you have to consider the scheme?—The local committee submits to us that scheme, and we are satisfied with the value we are getting.

4560. And that may vary in different places?—Yes.

4561. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You have to sanction the schedule from the Show Committee?—We have.

4562. The same as the Agricultural Department do with their shows?—I suppose they have the same principle.

4563. So that you have that much control over them if you don't approve of their schedule?—We don't give them the grant.

4564. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—You only subscribe to shows held in congested districts?—Or shows convenient, where farmers in congested districts could avail of the opportunities they offer.

4565. The prizes given with the aid of your money are not limited to competitors from congested districts?—They are; we make it a stipulation that what we call our own men would get the advantage that we give them in the grant.

4566. So that such portion of your contribution as is given in prizes must go into the pockets of successful competitors from the congested districts?—That is so.

4567. The CHAIRMAN.—I think you proposed to deal with industries and fisheries. I think perhaps those are points which we shall be able to get evidence on from Mr. Green and Mr. Walker. There are just one or two other points I should like to ask you about before you conclude what you have been good enough to tell us. One is with regard to the staff of the Board. We have had evidence from the Secretary with regard to the staff of the Board. It appears that a very large proportion of the staff are on a temporary and not on a permanent basis?—That is so.

4568. Very nearly four-fifths of the staff of the Board is temporary: what was the object of that?—The Treasury would not allow us to appoint permanent officers.

4569. I thought under the Act of 1896 you had a free hand?—I don't think so. Sir Antony understands that better than I do.

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4575. Section three of the Act of 1894 says:—"The Lord Lieutenant may, with the sanction of the Treasury, as to the number and remuneration, authorise the Congested Districts Board to appoint to the permanent staff of the Land Commission such officers as may be required for the purposes of the Board." It would seem from that, that, given, of course, the consent of the Treasury, it was possible for the Lord Lieutenant to add to the staff of the Land Commission and for the Land Commission to second as permanent members those officers that were required upon the staff of the Board?—That appears to be so, but in working it out I know we had difficulties; we went as far as we could with the Treasury.

4576. Do you mean to say the Treasury have refused to allow this clause of the Act of Parliament to be given effect to?—You see that refers to the Land Commission.

4577. But I understand that a great proportion of the officers of the Board are, as a matter of fact, officers of the Land Commission?—The principal officers are.

4578. And this contemplated that any increase in the staff of the Board should be obtained in that way, that actually the staff of the Land Commission should be increased, and that the officers required by the Board should be as it were seconded from the Land Commission?—I am afraid I cannot give you much information on that head. My own belief is that we appointed as many as we could, and there were difficulties raised and we found that the temporary men were doing fairly satisfactory work.

4579. Do you consider that it is a satisfactory arrangement to have such a great proportion of your staff temporary?—No, I don't think it is; but, of course, as I said, the Secretary will be able to explain that to you a great deal better than I can.

4580. I should like to know from you, as a member of the Board, whether the Board have ever pressed the view upon the Treasury that additions to their staff should be upon a permanent and not upon a temporary basis?—Personally I think the Board did everything in that direction that they could do. That is my belief.

4581. And your belief is that the present state of things, where an enormous proportion of the staff are temporary not permanent, is due entirely to the Treasury?—I think so.

4582. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The existence of the Board being limited by Act of Parliament to twenty years and the permanent Civil Service not admitting of the termination of the service in twenty years and being for the permanent employment during his lifetime of the clerk makes a difference?—I suppose that would be the explanation of the Treasury.

4583. And when that condition cannot be fulfilled it is the regular rule of the Treasury, is it not, to say "this is a temporary service and must be paid for in other ways"?—I suppose so.

4584. For instance, a man is appointed to an office which or *hypothese* comes to an end, or may come to an end, in twenty years, and is not earning a pension, and it is necessary to remunerate him in another way for his temporary service?—I suppose that is the explanation the Treasury would give for not according to the wish of the Board.

4585. Mr. BARRY.—You said to the CHAIRMAN you thought it was satisfactory?—In what way has it been satisfactory?—That man who knew the work leave us as soon as they know the work, and it takes some time to train a man, and when he gets a permanent position he leaves us.

4586. Could you not get over that by paying him rather more highly during the time of his temporary service?—I am afraid that would not be sound policy. The Treasury would come at us again.

4587. The Treasury would not object to your getting work done in a satisfactory way?—The Secretary has just handed me a memorandum which explains this. "In regard to the cost of the staff the Treasury have not made much concession to the Board, so early as January, 1894, their Lordships find a normal staff of Civil Servants for the Dublin office which has not since been increased except for the transfer of one officer of the agricultural staff from the Land Commission in 1893, and the Board have in consequence had to rely on the powers given to them by the third section of the Congested Districts Board Act of 1894

and engage temporary clerks, with the result that owing to the large increase of business under almost all heads there are now sixty-three temporary clerks out of a total of seventy-six in the Dublin office, exclusive of the Secretary and Assistant Secretary."

4588. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Does that include the increase of staff which you made in anticipation of a large increase of work which never came?—That includes the present staff in the Dublin office and the outdoor staff.

4589. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You bought a string of horses before there were any bounds to beat the country.

4590. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Arising out of that last remark, did we ever make an increase of staff in anticipation of work which never came?—No; we had work for them to do.

4591. Have the existing staff any spare time on their hands?—No, because we have a million and a quarter points worth of property on hands now that they can be let loose on.

4592. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Did you not tell us this morning that you had increased the staff in anticipation of an increase of work, so that at the present moment you had a staff sufficient to do much more work than they are at present employed on?—No; you see we bought a million and a quarter's worth of land, and the staff at present is able to deal with that within a certain time. When that is done, and if we are limited to our present funds, the staff will be too large.

4593. I did not understand from you this morning that your staff were actually fully engaged at the present moment, but that you had incurred an expenditure on staff in anticipation of work which, not having arrived, your staff was not so fully occupied, but, to use your own expression, was able to do more work than is at present entrusted to it?—The staff is fully employed, but when all the land the Board have on hands is dealt with, unless we get more funds, our present staff will be too large.

4594. The CHAIRMAN.—Do I understand that before 1894 the whole staff of the Congested Districts Board were permanent pensionable officers?—No, there were only a very few of them. The Treasury at first, for the reasons, I suppose, Sir Francis gave, it being only a temporary Board, did not like to appoint a staff of permanent officials. I see another paragraph here: "When the Board obtained the Parliamentary grant of £25,000 in 1892 the Treasury stipulated, and Mr. Gerald Balfour agreed, that this sum should be in lieu of the grants hitherto borne on the Vote."

4595. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That was for stamps?—Yes, stationery, and other things, but with regard to the fact that we have so many temporary officials, it is not the fault of the Board.

4596. The CHAIRMAN.—There is one other point I should like to ask you about, and that is with regard to the plantations. I believe in the early days of the Board you spent a great deal of money, at least a certain sum of money upon planting?—We did.

4597. Is it a fact that those plantations on the whole have been a failure?—Most of the money was spent, in growing the trees could not grow. We got a tract of country that was the most unfavourable for that purpose that you could conceive, Knockboy, and Father Tom Flannery, who was a very active man, then, succeeded in getting Mr. Balfour to expend some money on a reforesting scheme which was advocated pretty extensively at that time, and then after the Board was established this territory was given over to the Board, and the money that was expended on the trees would be supposed to have gone for nothing unless the Board continued and fenced in and expended some more upon it, and the Board did accordingly spend there in that district a pretty large sum of money, but, as you may have seen, with very little effect. In other districts—such as on the Dillan estate—where the Board planted trees, they hope it will be with very good results.

4598. You have spent up to now about £10,000 on planting?—At least there must be that much, but Knockboy took most of that, at least £5,000 or £7,000.

4599. Are you still planting?—We planted last year and the year before a good deal; anyone on the Dillan estate that wanted trees got them, provided he fenced the ground beforehand, so that any man on the Dillan estate that wished to plant among his

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been got the trees, and I think it is a very desirable thing.

4607. Besides the planting at Knockboy and in your own parish of Kilmacagh, and the planting on the Dillon estate, has any planting been done by the Board?—Not very much.

4608. What amount of money was spent on the Dillon estate in planting?—I could not tell you the exact sum, for each individual is represented a very small sum, but the number being so large, the small sums would probably make up a good sum, each man might have got 100 or 200 large trees and a thousand or two of quinces, but the Board have given up the idea of making large plantations as on the Knockboy place.

4609. Mr. BAYNE.—That is, they have not considered it, perhaps because they have not got any estate suitable?—They have not got any estate suitable; we find the land, even the mountain land, is so appreciated by the people, is of such value to the people, that they would rather have their cattle graze over it than have it planted with trees.

4610. Sir JOHN COLSON.—I do not quite follow. Surely the Knockboy operation, taking land and planting it, was done from its inception by the Congested Districts Board?—No.

4611. Who did it?—Mr. Balfour had more soft corners than one then, and I am glad to say he yielded to the representations of the parish priest.

4612. Where did the money come from?—From the Government, who were fairly liberal in those times.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—Was it relief work?—I could not say, but it came from the Government.

4613. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Was it not done by the Board under Mr. Wrench—was it not one of the things mentioned in the first reports?—You will find in the first reports that the Board took it over as a legacy from others.

4614. It is not right then to say that this failure in reference to the Knockboy planting is to be put at the door of the Congested Districts Board?—No, it is not. I don't want to say everything we undertook was a success, and we may have expended a little more money than we need in proving that trees would not grow in that district.

4615. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That experiment was a complete success, I understand?—Yes, the experiment of proving that trees would not grow was fully proved.

4616. Mr. BAYNE.—In that particular place?—Yes.

4617. Sir JOHN COLSON.—With reference to the Dillon estate, you have given figures as to the planting of trees. But when you bought the Dillon estate, there were a considerable number of tree plantations on it?—Except in three districts—there was not a tree in five parishes.

4618. But there were a number of plantations on the Dillon estate?—There were three plantations.

4619. I want to know exactly what revenues have been derived, or what has happened to that property of the Congested Districts Board?—In Loughgillyn the Board erected a saw-mill, and the old trees that were there were cut down and used for the benefit of the tenants.

4620. As a business transaction, saving the timber and selling it to the tenants?—Yes; at the lowest price.

4621. But was it worked at a loss, or was it worked as a plantation should be, at profit?—I think it must have been worked at some profit. Of course it went to the credit of the Dillon estate.

4622. It is part of the by-products?—Yes.

4623. Is that going on still?—It is going on still.

4624. Are you also planting where you cut so as to perpetuate that?—Yes; I believe so.

4625. Then the plantation being worked as a business arrangement, and under proper management, presumably is bringing in a profit?—Of course the trees that are planted now are bringing in nothing of a profit, but there was a desire amongst every member of the board that these large trees should not disappear, and that a country that was bleak enough before should not be made more bleak by taking away the few little trees that were left.

4626. Are you selling to the tenants the same timber at less prices than the shops in the town would sell it?—Well the shops in the town do not sell much of that kind. You see what the timber the Board sell is used for in barns and gates and different house purposes; and, when a tenant wanted to build an outhouse, the

Board gave him some at a very small price. The Board were utilising their resources as best they could.

4617. But, when you say you sell it to the tenants at very small prices, are you saving the timber and selling it under conditions that are not business-like to the tenants, or are you working it at its fair value, and selling to the tenants at fair value, or below it?—In some instances we gave it for nothing. We are not working on business lines to that extent, because we wanted to benefit the Dillon tenants in every way we could. We expended money in draining, fences, and in house building. Some of that house building was done by the timber that was cut in our saw-mill. So that you could not look for having it carried out on commercial lines.

4618. But now that the Dillon estate is practically done, are you working on business lines?—Now that the Dillon estate is done, any timber that the Board will be able to utilise will be undoubtedly charged at business prices except to our own tenants. It will all depend on how you treat these tenants. In some cases you might give a man a good deal of timber and charge him nothing at all.

4619. At present?—Yes—a Dillon tenant. The Board have not closed up the Dillon business yet.

4620. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But that sort of gift is not included in the 8 per cent. calculation of loss?—Yes; I think it is, I am sure it is. It is all calculated in the 8 per cent. loss. What I would like to see is, not only that the Board should acquire its property and sell it afterwards, but that the Parish Committee should follow and carry out operations amongst the poorest of the tenants, with supervisors who should carry on the work of instruction, and that that should prevail for some time until it has been raised to a certain level.

4621. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Would you include in the parish operations men with plantations where the timber may be?—I would include that, and we have done so, planting some trees around a man's house. The Board have, in a good many cases, done some planting on estates. In many cases they planted the nearest fences with quinces.

4622. And any advantage to the Congested Districts Board from the preservation of this wood in carrying on these operations is confined strictly to the tenants you have already dealt with under the Congested Districts Board scheme?—If their benefit requires it.

4623. I mean an adjoining man coming in who was not on the Dillon estate, and saying, "I want so much timber," you would not give it to him?—If he was on an estate purchased by the Board, it is a matter that Mr. Deane has to consider, and it is referred to the Board afterwards, how much to sell put to the credit of the Dillon estate of what he gave to the other estate.

4624. But the poor tenant on an adjoining estate who is not a Board tenant?—He may be. The Du Foyne estate tenants, being the Board's tenants, would come in the same as the Dillon estate tenants, but on an estate which was not bought by the Congested Districts Board, they would not give him timber without his paying for it.

4625. Although the estate might be congested, and although the man might be miserable and wanted it badly, he would not get it?—No.

4626. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The Knockboy planting, it is admitted, was a failure?—Owing to its being so exposed to the Atlantic breeze.

4627. You think it is unsuitable for planting?—I think it has proved to be so unsuitable that nothing will grow there.

4628. It was not bad planting or anything like that that caused it?—The men that the Board employed were experts.

4629. Mr. BAYNE.—Does not the state of the bog show that there was once a forest over it?—Some English and Scotch members of Parliament who were over here recently wanted to know how it was that the people were letting the land back into bog—showing how little they knew about it.

4630. But most of the bogs in that region were formerly planted?—They were planted.

4631. And do you happen to know whether the past planted at Knockboy had trees growing on it in the old times?—No; I think in Knockboy there was no subsoil; there was rock. There was a good deal of

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rock, and very little soil; and it was so exposed to the Atlantic that you could not hope to have trees grow there.

4631. The CHAIRMAN.—Who chose the Knockboy site?—Our predecessors.

4632. What do you mean by your predecessors?—I mean Father Tom Flannery and Mr. Balfour.

4633. But they were not the Congested Districts Board?—No; but they gave it over to us, and the first report of the Board explains it. And perhaps I might read the paragraph that will show fully what I state; and which also shows that it was during the period of the distress in 1860. "During the period of distress consequent on the partial failure of the potato crop in 1859 the Irish Government were anxious to acquire land in some of the distressed districts partly as a means of providing relief works and partly for the purpose of trying experiments in forestry under the adverse circumstances which prevailed on the western seaboard. With the assent of the late Father Thomas Flannery about 960 acres of land at Knockboy, on the Connemara coast, in the Co. Galway, were placed at the disposal of the Government, who purchased the landlord's interest and then became owners in fee-simple, and Father Flannery, who was the tenant, surrendered his interest in the lands. These lands were handed over to the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission, under whose superintendence a sum of £1,970 was spent in draining, fencing, road making, and in planting seventy acres, which gave much useful employment. On the 1st January, 1892, an assignment of the lands was made to the Board, which has during this year expended a further sum of £1,427 in carrying on the works." And they continued some years to expend more money on the planting and caring of trees until the sum that is given there was eventually expended.

4634. Sir JOHN COLOME.—But the very considerable sum that was paid by the Board in the endeavour to promote forestry convinced them that the lands were not suitable for the purpose?—Yes, that is so.

4635. You re-planted it?—No, it was not planted before. They got possession of it, and they planted a little. And we planted a further area.

4636. Did you take the advice or opinion of anybody who had experience of planting on the Atlantic coast of Ireland down South?—I think we got them over from Germany even.

4637. But not from people who had actually put to the test the question of planting on the Atlantic coast?—I think some wine-makers on the coast shook their heads and said it would not grow. The Government felt that something ought to be done in that way, and they have expended a very considerable sum of money on it; and I think Mr. Balfour had a wish that we should continue the experiments for a little longer. We felt that it was not an effective scheme.

4638. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You do not think that an experiment which turned out unsuccessful when made under unfavourable circumstances should have the making of other experiments under favourable circumstances?—I think if we had favourable circumstances, it would be most desirable that some more money should be spent in re-forestation.

4639. As to clumps of trees about houses, don't you think that on most farms there are disused angles of land that could be planted with clumps of trees?—I think so; but I think the best way would be to have sheltered belts at first near the houses, then, after that, there are on a great many holdings angles, patches that might be planted with advantage.

4640. Don't you think that the Parish Committee should be empowered to keep plots of that kind from trespass?—Yes, and there is no one more capable of doing it.

4641. It is absolutely necessary to prevent trespass?—If not, it would be useless.

4642. Would you not be in favour of a scheme for introducing the planting of fruit trees generally through the congested districts?—You would have, I think, to bring the people up to a certain level first; and then, when they are at that level, I think it would be desirable to plant fruit trees. But, when you have them not able to grow potatoes, I think it would be a little premature. But the better plan ought to be encouraged to set an example to the others who might reach their level in some way or other.

4643. You would not insist on quite a logical order of progress. Would not it be a good thing if the Parish Committees had a certain number of fruit trees to give out to those who would suitably care them?—I think it would be a very desirable thing, and would only be the beginning of what would, I hope, in the end turn out for the benefit of the district.

4644. Mr. BAYNE.—That is the business of the Department at present?—Yes, that is agricultural work embraced in the work we gave over to the Department.

4645. You are aware that in a great many places in Ireland where the tenants purchased lands, in various cases there is a tendency to cut down any such trees round about the lands?—I am sorry to say they do.

4646. When you make results of the lands purchased to the tenants—do you insert a clause forbidding that?—No.

4647. Do you not think that you should?—I think I am safe in saying that on most of the properties there were very few trees. We have on our own lands on the Dillon estate the woods, and we intend to keep them. But on the tenanted lands, as far as I know, in the West, there is very little plantation, and there would be no use in putting in a clause to that effect. And I am afraid that a man would be able to evade it. If you do not convince him that he ought to plant trees himself and let them grow, I am afraid that a clause obliging him in that way would not have the desired effect.

4648. Now are there estates in the maritime districts that you might purchase with a view to temporary employment, for instance in Connemara, about Rossa, that district which is very poor—have you ever considered whether there are not estates you could usefully buy for that purpose?—We were not allowed to expend any of our money for relief in such.

4649. No, but it would be furnishing an industry?—Well, I don't think that would be considered an industry. In the first place we had not funds, and in the next place it so happened that properties which were considered suitable were not for sale. But undoubtedly there are places in Ireland and in the Congested Districts where with advantage trees might be planted, and it would be most desirable that they should be.

4650. Sir JOHN COLOME.—You mean on tenanted and unenclosed lands?—Yes.

4651. But would not that involve a tremendous expenditure in planting, where you had to pay the tenant's interest when breaking up the lands?—You would not pay the tenant's interest in that case, for I suppose that the tenant would do it himself, that he would be glad to do it if he got the trees at a small price; it was his own interest and business.

4652. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Would he be willing to plant and enclose the plantation, and withdraw that from his acres?—We found that on the Dillon estate they are willing to do that, and we do not give them any time if they do not do that, for there would be no use in giving trees unless they were to be protected, and we therefore make the condition first before giving the trees that they should first enclose the spot or patch which they propose to plant.

4653. That it be enclosed in a way that you approve?—With a substantial fence that would last for some years.

The Commission adjourned.

ELEVENTH PUBLIC SITTING.

THURSDAY, 4TH OCTOBER, 1906.

AT 2.45 O'CLOCK P.M.

At 35, Dawsonstreet, Dublin.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUDLEY, G.C.V.O. (Chairman); The Right Hon. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL, G.C.B.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLONN, K.C.M.G.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANACH, Esq., D.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

REV. WILLIAM SPEDDWOOD GREEN CHAIRMED.

4654. The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Green, I think you have had the Irish fisheries under your charge for some time?—Yes, my Lord, since 1890. I was appointed Inspector of Fisheries in 1890.

4655 And those fishing industries are of such importance in those districts with which we have to deal that the Commissioners would be very pleased if you would tell them the history of your work in those districts, and your views with regard to the future. And, may I say, that we are going to Donegal next week, so if you have not time before to-morrow night to finish the evidence which you propose to give, I think you would be meeting our convenience if you could deal with Donegal as far as possible in order that we may have information with regard to that before we go?—Quite so. I was going fully to deal with it. Would you wish me now to make a statement on what you suggested, the state of the fisheries, and to begin that way?

4656 Would you like to do that or to follow the scheme which you have drawn up?—I think it might help matters if, with the map here, I describe what the condition of the fisheries was when the Board's work began, and then point out what changes have occurred during the time we have been in charge of them. And then, if you think it well, I could tell you what they were in the days gone by, because what they were long ago is some indication of what they possibly might be again. I think, with the help of this map, I could do that. My experience of the fishing on the south coast of Ireland dates since childhood, but my special interest in it began in 1887, when I was asked to report on the south-west fisheries for the Royal Dublin Society. In 1890, the Government, in conjunction with the Royal Dublin Society, undertook a survey of the whole of the west-coast fishery from the south of Cork to the north of Donegal, with the idea of ascertaining, as Mr. Baillif suggested, what the fisheries were worth, and how far they might be extended on, if developed, to support a larger population than at present existed on the west coast, or to support the present population in greater comfort. We were at that survey for two years. I was then appointed Inspector of Fisheries, afterwards I became a member of the Congested Districts Board, and I have remained in those positions till the present day.

4657. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I understood this two-years' survey covered the whole coast, not merely the south part of the coast?—All the west coast from the south of Cork to the north of Donegal. In 1890, when we began, the spring mackerel fishery was fully developed all round this south coast, and was a very valuable fishery. It was not an old fishery. It began in 1893. I remember the

MAHE boats coming in those early days, in the autumn, to the spring mackerel fishing. But it grew rapidly, and became a most valuable fishery, so that in 1890 that fishery, round the south-west coast of Cork and the west coast of Kerry, was worth £175,000. The fishermen were paid £176,000 for about two months' fishing.

4658. Just let me ask, does that sum which you mention include what was paid to curers, or was it merely for fish?—No, not at all, but only for the fish. There was a great amount of money paid for packing and to steamers for carrying, and to railways, and everything else, so that it was worth probably well on to double when you take into consideration all the value that came to the country from that one fishing.

4659. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you know how many people were engaged in it?—There were about 700 boats, and you might put nine men into each boat.

4660. Mr. BRYCE.—There are boats of about forty or fifty tons?—These were boats of about forty or fifty tons that took part in the spring mackerel fishing. Some of them were French, and the Irish boats at that time did not number more than half of the whole number that took part in that fishery. They came from Scotland, England, from the Isle of Man, and from France, to join in that South of Ireland spring mackerel fishing. It began in the end of March, and generally came to an end about the middle of June, when the fishery was over, and all the fleets dispersed. I am speaking now of the way things were in the year 1890. The spring fishery began in the sixties, but a new development took place in 1837. That was the first year that I reported for the Royal Dublin Society. The year before that there was a great failure of the American mackerel fishing, and Americans came over to the Irish coast to see if they could get mackerel for the American market. They first visited the Brehaven peninsula and Portmagee, near Valentia. They found that the mackerel, according to American ideas, were all split the wrong way, and there was no use in taking them across to America; and from that year they began coming on the American plan. That fishery bounded up into great prosperity, and in a very short time it almost equalled the spring mackerel fishing.

4661 This was a later fishing?—This was the autumn fishing. I should have said that.

4662. Mr. BRYCE.—The spring mackerel fishing was mostly captured, mostly fresh fish?—The spring mackerel fishing was almost all carried on by pecking the fish in ice and sending it to the English markets.

4663. Fresh?—Yes, fresh. Then when the autumn fishing began, it began as a curing trade, with salt-

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The fish were packed in barrels for America. And since that time those two fishings have been going on.

4654 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How many months does the autumn fishing last?—In some places it begins in the end of August and lasts till Christmas. In some places it lasts longer than in others, but you might say that September, October, and November are the three months of it. The spring mackerel fishing used to begin in the end of March and end in June. The autumn fishing used to begin on the first of September and end on the first of December.

4655 Mr. BRUCE.—You say "and to"—Well, because I was going to say something about the changes that have taken place in all these fisheries within that time. There have been very great changes.

4656 The CHAIRMAN.—Then, up to 1887, the autumn mackerel fishing was neglected altogether?—Practically disregarded. The only extent to which it was prosecuted was for local consumption. A few boats fished, and they supplied fish for local trade, for selling at the fair and for selling on the market days in the small inland towns that were within reach, and it was a trifling business.

4657 What would you say was the amount of money that was earned in 1887 by the autumn mackerel fishing?—In 1887, nothing practically.

4658 But when that autumn fishing became developed?—It went up into very big figures. I have here some of the figures which show the fluctuations that have taken place. I made this diagram to show the fluctuations which have taken place in all those fisheries; that is to say, the red is the spring mackerel fishing, and the black is the autumn mackerel fishing.* Now, in 1880, the spring mackerel fishing was worth £175,000, and in that year the autumn mackerel fishing, which is represented by the black line, was very much less. But in the year 1893 the autumn mackerel fishing had reached up to £293,548; and it fluctuated in various ways, and last year it was on the rise again, but this year I am afraid it will show a very big drop. It reached several times close on £200,000, that is, the autumn mackerel fishing, and these figures only represent the price of the fish that was paid to the fishermen. It does not represent what was a very large item in the business, the money paid to the families of those fishermen in curing. The difficulty of curing was chiefly one of finding labour, and every woman and child, and boy and girl in the place was employed round this south-west coast. There is one important feature in this autumn mackerel fishing, that it was carried on almost altogether by the local boats. A few strangers came to Kinsale, but it was chiefly an Irish business, and the row-boats were the principal boats employed—and canoes—and in one creek on the Dingle peninsula, where there are no boats fishing except canoes, as much as £10,000 has been paid down in the season in one year for the autumn mackerel.

4659 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT. Was that surface fishing or nets?—Drift nets, but seine nets are also used. That was the state of affairs when we began work. We must now consider the work of the Congested Districts Board. Those fisheries were very highly developed at that time in the south-west.

4670 The CHAIRMAN.—I do not quite understand why it was necessary to pickle the mackerel in the autumn. Why should not the same method be adopted in the autumn as was adopted in the spring?—Because there was no sale for mackerel in England in the autumn at all compared with what there was in the spring. There was a very great demand for mackerel in the month of April in England.

4671 Then there is not an equal demand for mackerel at any time they can be provided?—Well, at that time people were a long time without getting fresh herrings, and were a long time without getting any fresh fish. Steam trawling was not in existence in those days to the extent that it is now, and the stock of fresh fish, in the English markets was, generally speaking, at its lowest ebb about that date. The mackerel went over from Ireland, that is, the fresh mackerel, in boxes holding sixty fish, and the year we began at Aram we sold mackerel in the English markets for £2 a box, that is a box containing sixty fish.

4672 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—"We" being the Congested Districts Board?—Yes; and the same kind of prices were current down south in the earlier days. Now, when you come to the autumn fishing, you could not get those prices at all. If you got ten shillings a box that would be the outside you might expect for fresh mackerel in the autumn time.

4673 The CHAIRMAN.—It paid better to pickle them—you got a better price?—Oh, yes, a much better price. The price went up very high sometimes in good curing years. The price of mackerel in the autumn time varies from about 4s. 6d. a hundred, that is, 126 fish; and if it goes anything lower than that the men do not think the fishing worth prosecuting. It has gone up to over £1 a hundred for 126 fish, and in good years, that high price was paid for curing. It went across and made money even at the higher price. I was going to pass further north, but perhaps you would wish to hear something more of this autumn mackerel before I go on. The price in America has varied greatly. At present it is very low, and a barrel of mackerel costs a great deal by the time it is placed on the American market. A barrel of mackerel cannot be placed on the American market much under ten dollars, and unless a price is paid over that there is no encouragement for curing to go into the trade.

4674 Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—What does a barrel of mackerel represent in fish?—The contents of a barrel depends on the size of the fish, but the typical barrel of mackerel holds 300 fish, and you would say if a barrel of mackerel took a pound's worth of fish to £1 8s, the price of the barrel would be about 4s. 6d., the price of the salt would be about 4s, the labour would be about 5s., and the freight from the west coast of Ireland to Liverpool, where it has first to go, is about 2s., and about 2s. from Liverpool to the United States in the American liner; and then they have to pay 6s. duty before it can be landed in America. That two dollars' duty is the thing that kills the autumn mackerel trade on the Irish coast. At one time there was an attempt to raise that, and there was a great agitation against it, and one dollar was got off the duty then. They tried to put a dollar on the pickle as well as on the fish.

4675 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is there a native American mackerel fishery which is in competition with it?—There is, a very important one, but it met with a tremendous collapse in 1895.

4676 And it has since recovered?—It has not recovered. It has been better some years and worse others; but there is a demand for Irish fish, and if Irish fish could only be cured properly and sent across in good order, there is no doubt about it that there would be a couple of dollars more paid for it to-day than there is.

4677 Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Was it the collapse of 1895 that brought the Americans to the south coast?—It was. I was in America in 1895; and I met merchants who had been over here in Boston, and I saw mackerel coming across then that they had ceased to be cured, and they were greatly pleased. They thought better never had been cured; and for a good many years there were very good prices for Irish mackerel in America.

4678 Mr. BRUCE.—Then, but the method of curing fell off?—In some cases.

4679 And so that first Irish curing was very satisfactory?—The Irish curing. Some cures sent across first-rate stuff, and they got a great deal higher prices than the best in the American market; but, unfortunately, there are some cures that send across stuff that gives a bad name to the whole of the Irish fishing; and if they were more careful, and the fish went across in good order, and kept up its character, perhaps it would be better for everybody.

4680 You do not think it would be important if the Congested Districts Board and the other departments concerned were to insist, for the benefit of Ireland generally, on having some trade mark which they would affix?—We have, on various occasions, considered that question of the trade mark, but if it could not be an absolute guarantee as to quality, it would be worse than useless. It would cost a great deal of money to apply it on account of one peculiarity of the Irish mackerel curing trade, that is, that it

* See Diagram facing p. 198.

is not concentrated in places like the herring-erying in Scotland. It is not concentrated like it is at Wick, Aberdeen, Lerwick, Fraserburgh, and places of that description. It is on the whole coast, in creeks all along the coast; and these round areas that you see on the map in the South-West nearly all represent centres where mackerel curing goes on. These marks are for little ships and piers which the Congested Districts Board have built; but they are built for the sole purpose of facilitating the fishing, and at nearly all these places there are curing stations, and two or three different firms curing at each of them, so that the supervision would be a very complicated business.

4681. The CHAIRMAN.—Why is that—what is the reason for that method?—The autumn mackerel fishing is carried on by small boats, and chiefly close to the shore. The mackerel at that time of the year lie so close to the shore, particularly in the west, that large boats cannot get at them. They are usually too close to the shore for the large boats to venture to shoot their nets, and the row-boats go out from the creeks, and they cannot travel far; they must have the curing stations near them. And that causes a great number of centres to come into existence.

4682. How do they get over that difficulty in Scotland?—Well, in Scotland, take the case of Wick, or any of those places, the fish are lying seventy or eighty or a hundred miles out at sea, and the large boats have to travel that distance to get the best of the fish, and then it is just as easy for them to start from or make for one port as for the other.

4683. It is a peculiarity of the autumn mackerel in Ireland to come close in to the shore, whereas in Scotland they do not?—Herrings we are talking of in Scotland, because there is no mackerel fishing in Scotland to speak of.

4684. Mr. BRYCE.—But there are a number of large boats engaged in the autumn mackerel fishing which go out a considerable distance?—About Cape Clear and the south coast there are. They fish three or four miles off all along there, and some of those large boats run in to the curing stations in Kinsale and Outcletown and Glendore and other places; but when we come round to the west the bulk of the fishing is close to the shore, and the mackerel lie all along close in to the cliffs where the shore faces to the north; and the Board's ships you see are concentrated here on the shores that face north, because it is there that the mackerel are to be got.

4685. The CHAIRMAN.—Could you have some system of sending a vessel round and collecting the mackerel and taking them to some central curing station?—Well, the great point in the mackerel curing is to get them into the station as fast as ever you can, and to get them split and cleaned and their blood washed out as quickly as possible, and it would be very difficult to get them collected at sea and brought to a centre without injury. It could not be done always, because the row-boats fish sometimes in weather such as the large boats could not make a passage in.

4686. How long is it between the time that the mackerel is split and cleaned and the time that it must be cured and pickled?—It is brought in in the morning, at, say, seven o'clock in the morning, and it ought to be in pickle before four o'clock in the day. Anything after that is reducing the value of the fish enormously. If it is over a day the fish is never the same. In fact the highest class of fish, which fetches the highest price, is that which is cured, split, and bled almost before the life is out of it.

4687. Could you licence those centres—because there only on condition that they would cure in a particular way?—Then you would want supervision to ensure that that was carried out.

4688. But would you not know by the result if the curing was well done by inspection of the barrels afterwards?—Now, take, for instance, the Scotch way of dealing with the thing—in Scotland the inspection of the herrings goes on at various times in the curing process, and the more final inspection of the barrels at the end would not be sufficient to guarantee the quality of the cure.

4689. You have told us that now you know that curing is badly done in some cases?—Not in all cases.

4690. But in some cases, and that the fact that it is badly done in some of those curing stations affects the whole price of autumn pickled mackerel?—Yes.

4691. Do you know now which particular station it is that cures badly?—I am afraid I might be up for libel if I were to express any views on that subject. I have seen mackerel cured in a very filthy way, and I have seen mackerel cured in the most up-to-date manner. As I have said before, there are cures who send across staff to America that is as good as can be, and cannot be beaten; and then there are others who, when the men are tired out after fishing, and they cannot get fresh hands, split and scramble the mackerel into the barrels any way they can, and then that is poor stuff.

4692. My point is this, that if you know now, or have a shrewd suspicion now, which stations cure badly, without inspection, you would know also without inspection under some licensing plan which stations are not carrying out the conditions under which you licence?—Well, at all those stations there are three or four different firms curing, and some cure more carefully than others.

4693. Mr. BRYCE.—Those men attach a trade mark or a particular brand, do they not?—They attach their own trade mark and their own name.

4694. And if you found that particular names were sending out stuff not up to quality you would be able to be guided in your re-insuring of your licence?—Well, it would be very difficult to guarantee quality if a thing was not inspected in the process of being cured.

4695. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—In fact you could not guarantee unless you supervised all the processes?—That is so, because the keeping quality needs consideration; and merely to see the fish will not tell you all that has taken place.

4696. Mr. BRYCE.—I was supposing you carried out the Chairman's idea of issuing a licence only and not attaching a trade mark yourself?—I think there is a good deal in it, but I have not thought of that. I myself advocated a brand in the days gone by, and when we came to the first year after the autumn mackerel fishing had been started I suggested that there should be a brand, because the thing was in its infancy then, and only a couple of hundred barrels went away. If we had adopted it then it would have seemed to me to be a very simple affair; but now when it has developed into the dimensions I have described it is not easy to see how it could be done without great supervision, and a great number of supervisors. In Scotland when a man starts to cure herrings he has to give notice that he is going to do it, and that he is going to prepare to cure a certain amount, but here if we only inspected the places where a large amount was likely to be cured we should leave out a great number of places where curing was going on, and I do not think that we could ever hold out against the pressure that would be put upon us to give those poor people living in isolated out-of-the-way places the same chance as the people that were curing in the larger centres. We should have to inspect them all in order to put them on an equal footing.

4697. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But would it not pay to take the licence—you would not be approving the operation by the result, it would be simply that having examined and satisfied yourself that the man was honest you gave him the licence, and then he would export upon that authority. You do not think that would be sufficient?—I do not think it would do at all.

4698. What is the total of the mackerel landed in all Ireland, say, last year?—We have it in the annual report. The number of barrels cured in the autumn mackerel fishing—

4699. I was rather referring to the returns you make to the Board of Trade in cuts, for comparison?—In the spring fishery in 1905 there were 225,000 cwt. landed. In the autumn mackerel fishing the amount taken was 224,666 cwt.

4700. Could you tell me how much of that appertains to the congested districts?—I can. In the whole of the congested districts in 1905 in the spring mackerel fishing the value of the fish taken—this will give you the proportion—was £29,000, and in the autumn mackerel fishing the value was £21,000.

4701. What relation does the herring fishery of Ireland bear to the mackerel fishery either in quantity or

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in value?—The state of affairs was that, that when the Congested Districts Board began its work the mackerel fishery was worth more than the herring fishery. The herring fishery has increased very greatly in consequence of the development of the Donegal herring fishery by the Congested Districts Board, and the herring fishery now goes into very big figures; that is in the congested districts alone. The autumn herring fishery in the congested districts was worth £58,000, as against £20,000 for the spring mackerel fishery, but, on the other hand, the autumn mackerel fishery was worth £21,000 and the summer herring fishery was £14,000.

4702. So the mackerel is the predominant fishery of Ireland?—The mackerel fishery was very much the predominant fishery. I have here a diagram (indicated) which will give some idea of the way that things have developed. The lines show the fluctuations from 1890 up to the present time. The herrings begin very low. They were worth only £57,000 for the whole of Ireland, and they rose to £121,000 last year. In the year 1899 they were much larger in quantity. The entire amount was 450,000 cwt., and they only fetched £69,000, as against £121,000 for a smaller quantity. The reason of that was that this great development took place in two places. It took place in Waterford Harbour, where they get a whole lot of herrings that year, and in Trillick Bay up in Donegal, where a large herring fishery developed which lasted only three years; but the herrings were not of the highest class, and though the quantity was very great the money did not go up in proportion. The rise that has now taken place is owing to the development of the other Donegal herring fisheries, which produce a very high-class article, the fish being four times the price of the other herrings. Consequently this rise last year is an increase of high-class herrings which brought the money up to £121,000.

4703. High prices have been a characteristic of the herring fishery everywhere during the last two years?—Yes. To return to the story of the south I might say that concurrently with the spring mackerel fishery there is a summer herring fishery going on there (indicates coast of Cork on map). That summer herring fishery is in the month of May and the first half of June. This is, however, chiefly worked in the non-congested districts. There is also a summer herring fishery done at Dunmore East. It is sometimes very big, but it is not as important as the Kinsale summer fishing.

4704. The CHAIRMAN.—Do the same people fish for the spring mackerel and the summer herring?—The summer herring fishing here is altogether earned on by Scotch boats, because at that time all the Irish boats are engaged in the spring mackerel fishing. They are not through with the spring mackerel fishing when the summer herring fishing comes on. They and about the same day, about the middle of June, or the end of June.

4705. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say the Scotch boats come down for that?—They come to this summer herring fishery down south, and then fish sometimes at Howth on the way back, but generally speaking when they leave Kinsale they go right away to Stornoway.

4706. It is not worth the while of the Irish to increase the number of their boats for that fishery?—No, because every boat of the kind would have mackerel nets, and it would be very expensive to fit out also for herring. Some boats did it, but they never made the price of the herring nets out of it, and they found it better when they had mackerel nets on board to stick to the mackerel fishing. Of course there is a certain amount of friction between these two sets of fishers down in Kinsale occasionally on account of the herrings being caught at the same time as the mackerel.

4707. The CHAIRMAN.—Does the herring fishery which goes on there take place at the same time as the herring fishery which takes place in the north, in Donegal?—At the same time.

4707A. It is impossible for any boats connected with any fishermen in Ireland to come down and take advantage of the summer herring fishery? It must be fished, must it, by Scotch boats?—Altogether fished by Scotch boats. Old French boats have gone into it. I have known a couple of Irish boats to come to it from the County Down, where there are large herring boats.

4708. The fact that it is largely fished by Scotch boats is not due in any way to the lack of enterprise

in Ireland?—Not at all. There are boats fitted out for herring fishery in Ireland which have their business somewhere else, and all the boats on that coast where those Scotch boats are fishing for herrings are fully employed at mackerel fishing at that time, and could not go into two fisheries simultaneously.

4709. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Is there an autumn herring season on the Irish coast as well as in the early summer?—Yes. From the time you leave the south shore is no important herring fishing carried on around the west coast. The men when they pass from the spring fishing have their farms and other business to look after in the summer, and the summer months, June and July, are perfectly dull months with regard to fishing. There is no fishing practically going on in July. Then after August they are all into the autumn fishing again, and that keeps them going until the winter.

4710. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The fact of Scotch boats coming to Ireland, does not that show that there is an opening for more Irish boats?—Yes there is; if they thought it would pay them; but that bit of fishing would not pay for the outfit of a boat unless that same boat was satisfied when the fishing was over to do exactly what the Scotch boats do, which is, go off to some other distant place where the fisheries would then be on. One of the greatest difficulties of our business is to get the men to move from one place to another, when the fishing is done at one place to move on to somewhere else where it is going on.

4711. Sir JOHN COLSON.—The difficulty is to get them to follow the fish from their own locality?—Yes. These big Scotch boats which come down to the south coast of Ireland would not live if they stuck to one part of the coast anywhere. To pay the enormous expenses they are under they must keep going from one place to another; at the right moment when the fishing gets in the smallest degree slack they make off to some other place where the fishing is just coming in. By that means they get a complete succession of fishing all round, and by the time they reach Stornoway and the fishing is over there they go down in some cases to Aberdeen, and wind up at Yarmouth.

4712. Mr. BRYCE.—As a matter of fact the Scotch fishermen is only at home about two months of the year for the purpose of making repairs and mending his nets. All the rest of the time he is on the move?—Yes; he is on the move. We have some Irish boats which do the same, and this year some of the boats have come back from Shetland, and have done remarkably well.

4713. Some of the Donegal boats?—Some of the Arklow boats.

4714. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What sort of tonnage are they?—Forty-five or fifty tons. They are not in congested districts. When we started to develop the fisheries on the west coast of Ireland we wanted expert fishermen to lead off and to show the people we were trying to train what fishing was like, and the men we went for were these Arklow men. We brought them round and started them fishing to show how the thing could be done, and in that way we made the fishing very successful. They started well, and there were plenty of fish to send away.

4715. The CHAIRMAN.—To go back, you say this autumn mackerel fishing spread up in 1897 after the failure of the American fishery?—Yes.

4716. Did the curing start and did all the machinery necessary for the development of the autumn mackerel fishery come quite easily and come entirely by private enterprise?—It came by private enterprise.

4717. Who are the curers as a rule?—English or Scotchmen?—Irish, English, and Scotch; and one or two Americans.

4718. When it started first were the curers principally men other than Irishmen?—No. The first men who came across and started were Americans, but they were American merchants who came and utilized intelligent people whom they found already on the west coast of Ireland, and who were in the fishing business in some way or other, and they told those men how the thing should be done, and then when these local men saw how the thing should be done they cured the mackerel in that way; and it was all Irish people who handled the fish in the beginning, and they handle it still, except that there are English firms and Scotch

firms curing, and they send over foremen to look after their business at some of these different centres.

4719. Do you think those people who live round the coast of Kerry there are naturally a seafaring people?—They have been fishermen always. The people who live at Dursley Island have been celebrated as long as I can remember for fishing and curing fish. I remember thirty years ago, the first time I was on Dursley Island, and that was before the autumn mackerel fishing had been thought of, and then they were all hard at work fishing and curing for the local trade.

4720. Do you think they are people who would naturally adapt themselves to new developments and new requirements of the trade and so develop the trade more readily than people further up the coast?—You could not really have more enterprising and intelligent men than those men on these peninsulas, in their own line, but they are farmers, and they are not fishermen pure and simple. They all have patches of land, and they must look after the land. They cannot go away. Most of them would find it extremely inconvenient to go away to any distance. Then they don't need to go away any distance, because when the fishing comes on and when the curer comes and establishes himself there within 500 yards of their houses there is a great chance of adding to their income; and I have known men who with only a canvas canoe to make over £100 in the year out of the Kerry fishing, and that added to the means of subsistence provided by the small farms puts them in a very comfortable position.

4721. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I suppose those peoples' families do some of the curing?—Every man, woman, and child is employed when the fishing is regularly on. One of the most important fishing centres in West Cork is Garrinish. I have known the difficulty there to be sometimes to get labour. The whole country side is swept, and you could not get the help sometimes to get through the amount of fish that would be landed by the boats—all row-boats.

4722. Mr. BUTCH.—Following up the question of the Chairman, do you expect that the fisheries in Mayo, Galway, and Donegal, which relatively, as regards the particular kind of fisheries, are at present more backward than those Kerry and Cork fisheries, will ever develop to the same extent, and that the people have got in them the qualities which have made the Kerry and Cork fisheries good at this mackerel fishing?—You cannot treat them in too general a way, because the people up in those counties, Galway, Mayo, and Donegal, are different in different districts. There are districts in each of those places where the men have been fishermen just like the men we have been speaking of, where they have been fishermen from time immemorial, and are just as good and enterprising as the men in any country; whereas there are other spots where the people have never followed fishing, where they have been at something else, where they have been engaged at turning kelp or carrying turf or in migrating to Scotland for labour or doing something else. Undoubtedly we have great difficulty in getting these classes to take to fishing. The habits that have been engendered in these generations are very difficult to get them out of; but, as I said, there are places that are very different. Take the Aran Islands for instance. You get as good fishermen in the Aran Islands as you will anywhere in Cork or Kerry, and better than in a great many parts of Cork or Kerry. The men who live on the headlands and live on the islands have been more or less driven on to the sea, and they are, as a rule, everywhere where I meet them, the best fishermen and the best material for making into fishermen.

4723. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—So that the material is not good, but circumstances have not bred them up to it?—I propose going on with my story with regard to that. In 1890 we left the fishing here—(refers to Kerry in map)—in full swing, and passed a piece of coast here which is technically not congested—that is the coast of Clare—but, of course, the fishermen all along that coast are just as poor a class as any other poor fishermen in the whole west of Ireland, and there is nothing in their condition that makes them any way different as regards their prosperity from any other fishermen you could name along the whole Irish coast, but they are not in a congested district.

4724. The CHAIRMAN.—As to that, do you think it is unjust to the fishermen along the Clare coast that

the Congested Districts Board should spend money in developing fisheries and aiding the fisheries, say, in Galway Bay to the north there, and doing whatever may be necessary for carrying out that object, and leaving the Clare men isolated altogether merely because they are not in a congested district?—I think it was, most undoubtedly until the Department of Agriculture was started, but now when the Department of Agriculture exists we can deal with that coast of Clare in the same way as we are dealing with the congested districts.

4725. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Do the Agricultural Department also deal with the congested districts as well as the Congested Districts Board?—No; but at the time the Congested Districts Board was started you might say that Clare was left out in the cold, but since the new Department was created there are funds for the coast of Clare now too. They come from a different Department, but there is no grievance on that score.

4726. The CHAIRMAN.—Take the coast of Clare. Do the people now derive through the funds of the new Department as much assistance as the fishermen in the congested districts do through the funds of the Congested Districts Board?—They do, as far as we find it possible to help them, I think; but Clare is a very difficult coast to deal with, even if we had twice as much money, because this coast lies from Loop Head to Liscannor, which is practically the fishing port of the county, is an unbroken line of rocks. It is an iron-bound shore. There are no natural facilities, no indentations that you can make use of. It is very difficult to make anything of a harbour there. The physical features are very much against us, and consequently, with the best wishes in the world, we cannot develop the fishing there much more than it has been developed. We offered to give them row boats instead of the canoes if they wished to have them, and in each place where we offered them the men said they would rather stick to the canoes as they would not go into the boats, and the reason for that is quite plain. On a stormy sea the canoe is much safer in coming to the shore than a wooden boat that might be smashed to pieces. At all events, that is the difficulty there. We have several schemes in our mind for helping them. We have spent money on Liscannor. The Government have spent money on improving this harbour at Liscannor, and we have at present a scheme on for building a pier at Ballaghahine, in that part of Clare north of the cliffs of Moher. We should have had it built now only for all kinds of legal difficulties that have been dug up in the various Acts constituting the Department of Agriculture and the County Councils.

4727. Was not the enlargement of Liscannor Harbour for the purpose of facilitating the vessels taking away the stones from the quarries?—That is a fact. It is not for the fishing. Very little fishing goes on at Liscannor.

4728. It is all quarry work?—It is all quarry work.

4729. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Off the Clare coast is the fishing ground good?—Yes; there is very good fishing all along there (refers to map). The mackerel curing all along there is good. A good many years ago I went down along that coast I was asked by some fish merchants to name places where the curing could be carried on, and I mentioned some of those places to them; and there is curing going on at Seaford, Rossgeola, and a number of these creeks along here, by Quilly. In Cork and Kerry, of course, the fishing was going on all right, but when we came up to the Aran Islands and had to consider all this part of Ireland (refers to map) we found there was no fishing trade at all in existence. The spring mackerel fishing was unknown, and the autumn mackerel fishing was not going on; and the fishing in the Aran Islands, that had been pretty good 100 years ago, had so dwindled down that only six canoes fished out of this little village of Killybeg—six canvas canoes fishing for the whole island, which contains 3,000 people. There were a few canoes fishing from the north island too.

4730. The CHAIRMAN.—What was the reason of that deterioration?—One was the failure of the fishing in days gone by, and it never picked up again. They did not know that the spring mackerel were to be caught off the islands. One of the first experiments we had to make was to prove they could be got there. Then we brought the Arklow boats round to experiment on it, and we started the fishing there.

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4733. When you talk of the fishing prosperity of the Aran Islands 100 years ago was that mackerel or herrings?

4732. Why should they decline from a prosperous fishing community down to one with only six canoes. What was the cause of that?—One reason was the difficulty of getting rid of the fish. The only means of communication when we went up there first was the post boat.

4733. How did they manage to get rid of the fish 100 years ago?—It was in sufficient quantities then for hookers to make special trips with the fish to Galway to market. The state of affairs all along that coast up to Belmullet when we first went there was that there was no export fish trade. There was just a certain amount of catching of beam and cod and ling in the season and curing them in a sort of a way for their own local trade. They used to barter the cod and ling caught in the Aran Islands in Connemara for turf. There being no turf on the Aran Islands a regular business was for a hooker to come over from Connemara with a cargo of turf and take back a cargo of dried cod and ling. That was the only trade going on when we came there; no trade going beyond the little villages, and the same was to be said of the whole of Mayo and Donegal. The first year we went up to Teaba they were getting a great lot of cod and ling, and carts were coming down, and the caddies who brought the carts down brought fish and carried it away through the country, selling it locally; and the same was going on in one or two other places.

4734. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you say when you first went there, you are speaking of the Board?—Of the Congested Districts Board.

4735. The CHAIRMAN.—At the time of the foundation—I am speaking of the first year's work of the Congested Districts Board, and of the two years before that, because when I was making that survey of the west coast fishery for Mr. Balfour we were two years at work before the Congested Districts Board was created, but it was all work of the same nature.

4736. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you consider that a sufficient survey has been made of the Irish fishing waters?—I think we know what they are worth.

4737. With reference to that important mackerel fishing on the Cork and Kerry coast do you think that that coast is sufficiently provided with piers and harbours for the fishermen?—We have applications for a number of small harbour improvements, and there are a number of them we want to carry out; when I say that I think it means that we think there is a want.

4738. There is a want of more accommodation for fishermen?—Yes; if the fishing is to go on as it has been going; if the demand remains as good as it has been, then I say "the more of these small creeks and harbours you have the more fish they will produce and the more money will come into the country; because the landing piers we have made, the little piers, of which we have built a number, have been the immediate cause of new boats being got and new crews taking up fishing, men that had no chance of fishing before, and new centres of fishing being created. Each of these little slips and piers has been productive in that sense.

4739. Mr. KAVANAGH.—When you say if the demand goes on have you any reason to suppose that it will not go on?—I have no reason to suppose that it will not go on, but I am speaking at the present moment at a very critical time. The fishing that ought to be in full swing now has practically not opened yet. The fish may be there, but the currents have not come, and this is the greatest drop we have had for the last twenty years. I don't remember any year in which the stations were closed down as they are this year.

4740. Have the currents not come because there is no demand?—The currents have not come, because they have immense stocks lying on their hands un sold. The price in America is at present not good enough to enable them to get off those stocks except at a loss, and until they get off those stocks they are not inclined to come any more.

4741. The demand is not good enough for the supply?—It is not good enough for the supply at the present moment, but we have been watching the American fishery and seeing what is going on over there, and the latest telegrams we got were rather more hopeful.

4742. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You said something about the cure not being uniformly good for

mackerel and the reputation of Irish fish suffering consequently in America?—Quite so.

4743. On the other hand, it is the case that the cure of the Irish herrings is so good that Irish herrings fetch a special price in the American market?—The Donegal herrings have beaten all records in the way of price in the Continental markets. I don't want to say anything derogatory to Scotch herrings, because we know they are first rate and excellent, and the best of the Scotch herrings are the Castle Bay herrings that are caught off the island of Barra, in the Hebrides; and this year fifty reubles were paid for Donegal herrings in St. Petersburg, when the best Castle Bay were selling for thirty-five.

4744. Mr. STURGEON.—How many did they sell respectively?—I am not at all certain of the quantity of Castle Bay. If you bring in Stormorags our quantity was not at all equal to theirs.

4745. By whom were these herrings cured in Downings Bay mostly?—They were cured by Irish girls to a great extent.

4746. Who purchased them and cured them?—I have not the names.

Mr. STURGEON.—I don't wish to make comparisons, any more than you.

4747. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would it be the case that the work was done through a friendly mixture of Irish and Scotch enterprise?—There is no doubt about it, we are very glad to see the Scotchmen at Downings Bay. There is nobody more welcome.

4748. Mr. BARRETT.—There have been the most harmonious relations all through Donegal between the Scotch and the Irish fishermen?—Yes; nothing could be more harmonious.

4749. The CHAIRMAN.—You were telling us when you first went there you found no kind of export trade at all?—There was no export trade at all. As an illustration of the change that has come over this north coast of Donegal I may recall that the first time in 1891, when we went into Burtonport, we found an Arklow vessel there that had been in the Shetland Islands, and loaded a cargo of salt herrings in bulk and brought them there and were selling them at Burtonport. That was because there was no such thing as herrings being caught on the whole of the coast at that time, and now Burtonport sends out something like £35,000 worth of herrings, many of them to Glasgow and the Continent and to America, so that the whole thing has changed.

4750. The autumn herring fishery is going on now?—The fishing that is going on now on the Donegal coast is the autumn herring fishing, which was first started by the Board. It goes on at Burtonport, Downings Bay, and down to the south of the Rosses, down to Rossbeg. That fishing goes on from now until Christmas. Then a few years ago the Board determined to try the experiment of the summer fishing. Six Scotch boats were brought over to experiment on this summer fishing and it turned out a success. The fishing is now going on in the month of May, and that May and June fishing is most remunerative.

4751. Are there no mackerel found in Donegal waters?—Not in paying quantities.

4752. They don't fish them at all?—Mackerel to a certain extent go all round Ireland. You will catch mackerel at Greytown at present, but not in commercial quantities.

4753. Sir JAMES CONNOR.—May I ask you the course of the herring, the natural course of the fish?—The summer herring fishing goes on at Knapale, and they turn up at the same time in the north, and also in the west, and since the first year of the Board's work we have tried to get the summer herring fishing started off Galway Bay and Inishbofin, and the fishing boats that were fitted out by the Congested Districts Board with mackerel nets were also fitted out with herring nets, and they tried off that coast for the summer herring, but unfortunately there were such quantities of dog fish off the coast in the months of May and June when the boats took off the herring nets that although the herrings were there fishing became impossible.

4754. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You were proceeding to describe the development of the Aran fishery?—Having finished the survey all round the whole coast I reported in 1891 that I thought certain developments were possible. The fish

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thing I recommended was the starting of the spring mackerel fishing off the Aran Islands. In that year we had every reason to think that the spring mackerel fishing was going to be the saviour of all our troubles up there, because in those years its value reached the very high figure of £175,000. This year it has fallen away to £80,000. That diagram to which I have referred explains the fluctuations which have occurred, and certainly explains some of the disappointments we have met with. When we began work the spring mackerel fishing in the south was a most valuable asset; when we went to Aran first we found no boats fishing except a few canoes fishing out of Killybeg and a few on the south island. Then we brought seven Arklow boats there to exploit the fishery. One lady in England presented two boats for Clifton parish on condition that we would use crews out of Clifton parish. Another lady provided two boats for Conemaugh crews.

4755. **Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.**—Row boats or sailing boats—Largo boats. The lady that sent the boats from England paid £1,700 for the two boats, and these boats were critical to my case, and we put crews in them, and fished them during the season. In 1898 we were fortunate in bringing Mr. Shumman from the Isle of Man under the Board's service as manager, and he was with us ever since until this year when he had to retire owing to ill-health. He was the Inspector for the whole of that Conemaugh and Mayo coast and for the mackerel fishing principally. I reached Aran in a small steamer provided by the Corporation District Board on the 24th of March, and we fished mackerel all off the island till the Arklow boats arrived at the end of that month, but was unsuccessful in finding fish at first. One night just as the Arklow boats were about to give it up as a bad job and go away they struck the fish, and we took up those fish to Galway and sent them up by the night mail. There were 6,000 at £4 a hundred. Those boats that year at Aran made in six weeks fishing from £350 to £450 a boat, and the new crews made money, some of them made nearly £100, and the thing was a success. Applications for new nets and new boats for fishing came in very fast. The Board made loans of boats and gear, and there is a large fleet of mackerel boats now belonging to Aran Islands. Then the business opened on the Conemaugh coast and there are fleets of boats there. In 1905 the Board opened at Cleggan, north of Sligo Head, to enable the Beftin fishermen to have fishing, and that is going on successfully. In the early years of the Board's work there was an abundance of cod and ling on the coast, and next to the spring mackerel fishing the fishing we thought would pay best was that for cod and ling. We opened ten curing stations in 1892. We bought a great lot of fish to cure, but then cod and ling left the coast. We cannot get them in paying quantities. Those caught now are marketed fresh.

4756. It is not that the fish have disappeared, but they have got fewer.—They have got fewer, along the coast near these cod and ling stations. By the end of 1893 we found our business had increased to such an extent that I could not manage it even with Mr. Shumman's assistance, and then Mr. Micks, who was our Secretary, went to Aberdeen, and he was fortunate in securing the assistance of Mr. Duthie, who is with us still and is our Superintendent of all these fishing stations, and while Mr. Shumman had principal charge of the Conemaugh coast Mr. Duthie had principal charge of the Donegal coast. Under his fostering care the Downing's Bay fleet of herring boats has come into existence, and for that curing which has got up the name for the Irish herring in the Continental market, I think Mr. Duthie may very well get full credit. It is largely due to him and to his family. That brought our development business as far as boats and everything else go to a close. I might, perhaps, now say something about what fishing was in the days gone by.

4757. **The CHAIRMAN.**—Before you go to that, is there any herring fishing at the Aran Islands?—There is herring fishing at the Aran Islands—in Galway Bay. The Aran Islanders have got all the fishings. There is one reason why I selected Aran as a good site at which to begin work. They had splendid cod and ling fishing in the early spring; then the spring mackerel fishing, the summer herring fishing, the early

autumn herring fishing in Galway Bay; they had the autumn mackerel fishing, which carries them on into winter, and trawling at various times.

4758. **Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.**—It would be interesting to have an explanation of how, on behalf of the Board, you fostered the Aran mackerel fishing, that is the process by which it was done—I think the way it was done was that in the first year we arranged with a merchant to sell the fish under agreement with us. The Board took up the business, and for three years they bought the fish and marketed them. We had an ice bulk there with 500 tons of ice, and thousands of fish boxes. We boxed the mackerel and sent them across to the English markets and gave the fishermen whatever they fetched in the English markets less seven shillings per box, which was deducted from the price to cover the price of the box, price of the ice, labour and the freight, and on that principle with modifications we went for three years.

4759. **Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.**—Did that seven shillings really cover the expense per box?—It did in some years. It did not in others. It depended largely on the quantity we were handling and other matters.

4760. **Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.**—Besides the ice bulk you had a special steamer and special night trains sometimes, taking the fish to Dublin?—Yes, very often we had to have special trains. When I suggested the starting of this mackerel fishing there was no telegraphic communication with the island but the Government took the matter up the moment the Board decided on trying the experiment and caused the Post Office to lay a telegraph cable to the Aran Islands. That brought them into connection with the rest of the world. Then we arranged for a subsidised steamer service. This steamer runs three times a week now to the Aran Islands. When we went there first there was no communication with the Aran Islands at all except by hooker that was supposed to go with the post three times a week. Very often they were three weeks without being able to make the passage. Sometimes when people started to come to Aran from Galway they got becalmed in Galway Bay and were knocking about there for two or three days, and they did not care to pay a second visit to the Aran Islands after an experience like that. So the fish trade was impossible under those circumstances, and it was only made possible by the means of communication being opened. In fact all the whole fishing development of the West of Ireland depends on the means of communication. Mr. Ralfe started to make railways in 1891-1892. If those railways had not been established all this development we are talking of could not have taken place. At the present moment we are stopped by the want of communication in some important directions.

4761. **The CHAIRMAN.**—Where is that principally?—When we pushed development along this coast we opened the spring mackerel fishery at Cleggan and Blackhead Bay. The reason we went up to the north of Achill was to try to bring the people of Erris in the north corner of Mayo into the fishing business, and, as of course you are aware, the nearest railway station to this district is Malinbeg on Achill Sound—that is on one of the new railways made in 1891. But it is a very long way from the railway to the sheltered part of Blackhead Bay from which the fishing might be possible. We opened the fishing station at Blackhead Point. We had an ice bulk and thirteen boats, including two Arklow boats subsidised to give a lead off. We put some of the crews from Achill into these boats and some from the Malinbeg, and we chartered a steamer to take the fish from Blackhead, where the ice was stored to a new siding which we got the Midland Great Western Railway Company to make here, to a new station called Torragan on Achill Sound. We had to buy the whole of that channel, and make a track for the steamer to come up to the railway. The steamer was, of course, very expensive. Another difficulty was the distance the fishing boats had to go from Blackhead to get clear of the islands to shoot their nets. Altogether we carried on for six years. It was a failure because of the expense, and if this district is ever to be made into a fishing country, the place that offers the greatest prospect of success is Broadhaven, because Blackhead Bay is on too large a scale for a boat harbour. The anchorage is exposed, and a very dangerous sea gets up inside. Broadhaven is a very good harbour. The sea off

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Broadhaven is much more suitable for fishing than off Blackrock, where there are strong tides running off Achill Head and Inishkea. If ever Broadhaven is brought into communication with the rest of the world by a railway we have every reason to think that a successful fishing port will be created there.

4762. Mr. BAYNE.—What would be the method of access to Broadhaven?—At present there is a long car with two horses which comes from Ballina, and it is forty miles drive from Ballina to Balmullet, and then there are five or six miles more down to the place the boats would put in at Broadhaven.

4763. The CHAIRMAN.—There is a steamer running from Balmullet to Sligo?—There is a steamer runs three times a week. It is of no use for fishing, because three times a week would not do for a fish trade. You must run every day if the men are going to fish every day. If the men are not going to fish every day they are not going to make the business pay.

4764. Sir JOHN COOMES.—Referring to the interesting diagram, that diagram represents fluctuations in the fishing from Donegal down to West Cork?—It deals with the whole of Ireland.

4765. It is the whole of Ireland?—Yes.

4766. Of course these fluctuations apply all round, do they not to the United Kingdom?—There are great fluctuations in the United Kingdom, they don't always run concurrently with these, but there are fluctuations.

4767. I ask you the question for this reason: do you mean from what you say, and from what you illustrate by that diagram, that we should draw the inference that there are greater fluctuations and greater uncertainties about the fishing off the west coast of Ireland than in other parts of the Kingdom?—Certainly not, the only thing to be said about it is this, that the kind of fishing that is carried on in the West of Ireland by the West of Ireland people is far more subject to fluctuations than the fishing which brings far the larger amount of fish into the English markets, which is by steam trawlers. The supply that is brought in by the steam trawlers into the English markets affects all our markets. It is much more constant than any other fishing we are speaking of, such as drift-net fishing and other fishing that can be carried on by our people.

4768. The class of fishing which is most possible on the west coast of Ireland is subject from its nature to peculiar variations?—Yes.

4769. Rather than the big business of the great big boats that follow the fish—the mackerel, herring, and so on?—That is so, the steam trawlers that come round to the west coast of Ireland and deliver at Milford, work very constantly at the fishing compared with what we can do, and the demand is fairly constant in England.

4770. You spoke of Scotch, and Manx, and other boats coming after the mackerel and herring to the coast of Ireland, has the steam drifter got as far as Ireland yet?—Yes.

4771. Do you find them now?—At the Downing's Bay fishing last year there were fifty steam drifters.

4772. The Commission would be right in apprehending that the development of the steam drifter is very great?—Very great, the whole thing is most serious.

4773. And already their presence is felt on the west coast of Ireland?—Yes, but not so importantly to the sailing boats as it is on the east coast of Scotland.

4774. That is exactly what I want to know; would you just tell us why?—Because of the distance the fish lie, say off Wick; I was up in Wick the year before last in the middle of the herring fishing, and I was taken to a lot of sailing-boat men of different classes—the Banfishermen have very high-class sailing boats, while the other poorer classes from Galway and Sutherland have smaller boats; they all said the fish are out far away at sea; that these small boats could not get to the places where most of the fish were in time. The steam-drifters were able to go there and be back again in the markets before the sailing boats could get in and with twice as much

fish as the sailing boats could get a change of catching. On the west coast here the fish do not lie such a distance out, and they are usually within ten or twenty miles at the outside, and that is the farthest that the fishermen have to go; they have rarely to go twenty.

4775. Am I right in summing up what you say in this way, that the steam drifter is not such a menace to the sailing boat owing to the geographical circumstances on the west coast of Ireland as it is in most other parts of the United Kingdom?—I think it is not.

4776. Mr. KAYE.—Where do the steam drifters come from?—They come from Scotland and England.

4777. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—With reference to the importance of transit facilities for maintaining and improving the fisheries, if you were asked I suppose no one could more easily supply a list of the improvements in transit that might be deemed necessary for the adequate development of the Irish fisheries than you?—I think I could suggest some of them. I suggested some of them in 1885, and I have been thinking of it ever since.

4778. The CHAIRMAN.—It would be rather useful if you could give us such a table?—Yes, I can do that.

4779. Sir JOHN COOMES.—Could you give the list of 1887 and show what additions you have made to it since, and which of those you put down in your list of 1887 have been carried out?—I could; I have that list here.

4780. The CHAIRMAN.—If you could hand that in as part of your evidence it would be very useful?—I will be very glad to do so.*

4781. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Perhaps you could have it before to-morrow evening?—Certainly.

4782. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Assuming you provided these additional facilities, do you consider there is still a large amount of fish which escape undried, or do you think the coast is fairly fished as I may call it?—I think the Donegal coast was fairly fished last year.

4783. Do you think an increase of the fleet would have proportionately increased the take?—In the summer herring fishery there would be room for a number of boats, because it is all in the open sea and far away from the bays, and if the fish continue to be there, and I have no reason to doubt their persistence, there might be a great many more boats in that fishing than there are now.

4784. Would they have to live upon the herring fishery alone?—If the fishing was as good as it is. We must, however, go at it the other way, and look at it from the autumn point of view—the autumn fishing is in the bays—and consequently you could not multiply the boats very much more for the autumn fishing; if the boats were multiplied for the summer fishing and had not the autumn fishing too, a very much larger number of boats could not live out of the local fishery at the present moment.

4785. It would rather appear from these two answers that you are not sanguine of greatly developing the fishery on the Donegal coast?—We are going cautiously to work. We have added six large boats this year; we have been adding them cautiously.

4786. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You have been always careful not to add boats in excess of reasonable expectations?—Yes, in fact we often hang back too long; sometimes we were not able to get the boats built in time.

4787. Bearing on the important question Sir Francis Mowatt put, do you think there would be a chance that at sea there are banks on which there would be turbot and other fish which have not been drawn on up to the present?—I have not the slightest doubt that there are banks which have not been drawn on by line fishermen, but they are all fished by steam trawlers, and these off-shore places where you would get turbot, cod and ling are all frequented by steam trawlers.

4788. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You have said you thought you could suggest a variety of improvements and developments of the system of fishing, in traffic and so on; do you think the net result of that would

* The railway extensions in order of importance and feasibility considered suggested by Mr. Greene in 1887 were 1.—L. Ballinacorney to Maghera, about seven miles. 2.—Connacree to Cork to Skibbereen and Bantry Railway with Great Southern and Western Railway. 3.—Keshale Railway Station to entrance of harbour, where a pier should be built. 4.—Ballinacorney Harbour to Skibbereen. 5.—Castletown Harbour to Skibbereen. 6.—Chandoo Harbour to Skibbereen. 7.—Cahircorney to Kildergin. 8.—Dingle to Great Southern and Western Railway near Tralee. 9.—Bantry Station to harbour. Of the above 4, 7, 8, and 9 have been carried out, and 2 is at present being arranged for.

be that the increased take would fairly justify the increased improvement?—If we take as an illustration Broadhaven up in the north of Kerry; I do not say for one moment that in any moderate period of years the money earned would pay the cost of the construction of a railway, or that the amount of fish carried would pay for the cost of constructing the railway; it would be a most illusory expectation; but the railway would be wanted for various other things as well as fisheries; and I would hope that the prospect of fishery development would be sufficiently good added to the other trade that might be possible, to make it worth while to make such a railway, and it would undoubtedly create a new fishing centre.

4793. A new centre of fishing?—A new centre of fishing; a place where fishing on a large scale is now impossible.

4794. Except for the autumn mackerel curing and small fishing that are carried on there, there is no other industry which the railway could develop beyond the gradual development of the country generally?—No other industry beyond a fresh fish trade, which now is impossible; there are carpet factories, however, in Donagall, they have come into existence because the railway communication was convenient, and there might be other factories possible where the means of communication gave the facilities; but quite apart from all that it seems an unhealthy thing for a part of the community to be so isolated and cut off as that corner of Ireland is at present.

4795. I am only considering for the moment the fisheries?—I don't want to get into anything else.

4796. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Following up what Sir Francis has said to you, and assuming that we cannot look forward to any great further development of the fishing on that part of the coast of Ireland, if a railway was brought to Broadhaven would it alter the gravitation of fish towards other places under existing circumstances?—Not in the smallest degree. There is plenty of demand for it all if we could get it to market at a certain price.

4797. What I mean is, assuming there was a railway to Broadhaven, would the natural advantage accruing to Broadhaven and carrying the fish over that railway—would the commercial advantage of carrying the fish from Broadhaven by rail for distribution be greater than in some of the existing places now close to a railway; are the natural conditions of Broadhaven such that if there was a railway the fish would come to Broadhaven to be brought over the railway instead of going to other places on the coast?—The fish of this coast are not caught at present; off that corner of Ireland the sea is in very nice order for fishing; it is clear of the bad currents that run off Achill Head and Blackrock and Eagle Island. It is just round the corner, and there is an immense amount of fish there. I was one time going from Belderrig to Broadhaven at night, and for the whole of that distance the steamer was plunging its way through mackerel. That amount of fish was practically untapped. That was in the autumn, when the value depends on the American trade; but we have every reason to believe that the spring mackerel fishing can be carried on there. Herrings now come into Broadhaven; they have not been fished for in the open sea. We have no reason to suppose there is not first-rate fishing to be had here. The approach to Broadhaven is quite compared with the approach to other places that I can name along the west—in other places where you can get near to the railway. Westport is a tidal harbour, and you can only get up to the railway at the top of high water. You cannot get to the railway at Achill Sound at all except through a long intricate channel, and a steamer is necessary to do that. No sailing boat could ever hope to navigate these channels right up to the railway and get back to the sea again in a reasonable time. There is no place all along the west coast from Donegal to Kerry, where a fishing boat can come at all states of tide, and deliver into a train.

4798. Naturally Broadhaven is superior as a station if it only got communication?—If it only had the means of communication.

4799. Most Rev. Dr O'Donnell.—I suppose there is almost no limit to the number of boats that might be employed in fishing that shoal of mackerel you described if the boats were there?—If the boats were there, and if the demand for that particular fish was there; but that particular fish I happened to be speaking of altogether owes its value to the American demand; because, outside the local markets and the sale on market days in small towns and that sort of thing, there is little other sale for it.

4800. Whether they caught a large quantity or a small quantity the fish would be cured?—The fish would be cured.

4801. Hence, if there were a large demand in America a large supply would be imported?—Yes, and if we could get a dollar off the duty payable in America now it would start the whole business under very healthy conditions.

4802. The CHAIRMAN.—From the fishing point of view, if you got a railway up to these parts where would you like to see it go from?—from Belmullet to Achill Sound south or from Belmullet up by Killalea along the northern coast of Mayo?—I would say at once if I was to think of the fishing only, and that is what I am thinking of now, I would certainly say along the northern coast from Killalea, because you would touch Belderrig and several other places, Ballycastle and Belderrig, and then come to Broadhaven; but I don't wish at all to say that the amount of fish to be landed at Belderrig and Ballycastle would be so great as to overwhelm any other means for making the railway from Malinbeg to Belmullet, provided that Broadhaven is touched, but Broadhaven must be touched if the line is going to do any good, and not be a railway coming within three miles of a place; that would mean putting the fish on a cart and jolting it about, and paying for putting it on and taking it off. All such knocking about means extra expense, which very often represents the whole profit the merchant might make on his fish.

4803. Would not a railway running into Belmullet be sufficient to tap Broadhaven?—I think not; the channel at Belmullet is only a high-water channel.

4804. You would have to have a railway down to where the pier is now for the *Sledge steamer*?—Certainly so far down as that, and it would be better to have it farther down.

4805. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Is the pilchard known on the west coast of Ireland?—The pilchard thirty years ago was known on the west coast of Kerry. I remember the pilchards being in great quantities in Bantry Bay and Ballinskelligs Bay, but not for the last thirty years.

4806. You mentioned the injury caused by dog fish; have you got any information of a great increase in the number of dog fish; I know that there is in the South and you mentioned dog-fish up further north; does your observation or information lead to any justification of the idea that there is a large increase on the west coast of Ireland in the dog-fish?—We found them all the time I have been fishing. Mr. Shimmer, who was our manager on the Mayo coast, is there now, and can give you every information. He has had about forty years' experience of fishing for mackerel himself.

4807. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you mean the plain dog-fish or the speckled fish?—Not the speckled ones. The speckled ones are more on the ground and don't get into the drift nets as much as those yike dog-fish.

4808. Are not there some great big blue ones?—The blue sharks get in sometimes.

4809. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—These dog-fish you speak of are about three feet six inches in length?—The one that is most troublesome in the herring nets is a little thing about eighteen inches long, and they catch them in thousands sometimes. Would you like me, before going to anything else, to say what these fisheries were in the days gone by?

4810. The CHAIRMAN.—Perhaps we might begin with that in the morning?—Very well.

The Commission adjourned.

Oct. 4, 1906.

Rev. William Spence Green.

TWELFTH PUBLIC SITTING.

FRIDAY, 5TH OCTOBER, 1906.

AT 11 O'CLOCK A.M.

AT 35, Dawson-street, Dublin.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUDLEY, O.C.V.O. (Chairman); The Right Hon. Sir ANTOHY MACDONNELL, O.C.B.I.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOME, K.C.M.G.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, O.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAUGH, Esq., D.L.; ANOOS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

REV. WILLIAM SPOTSWOOD GREEN further examined.

Oct. 5, 1906.

Rev. William
Spotswood
Green.

4307. Mr. CHAIRMAN.—I think, Mr. Green, when we rose last night you were going to tell us about the condition of these fisheries some years ago—I was thinking, my lord, that it would be important, with regard to the probabilities of the future, if we looked at what they were in the past, and the changes that have taken place. I do not propose to go back very far. I think the end of the 18th century is far enough to go back.

4308. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Did you say the 18th?—The end of the 18th. The reason I did say that is that these were very important fisheries going on at that time, and it was at that time that buildings were erected at Rutland Island and Inishbow, near Burton Port, for the fishery. £30,000 was spent in 1788 on fishery buildings and custom house for the herring fishing near Burton Port, in Donegal, a portion of which was a Government grant.

4309. How much?—About £30,000 was spent on fishery buildings for the purpose of assisting and promoting the herring fishing in the Burton Port district, and the remains of those buildings are still to be seen.

4310. The CHAIRMAN.—Was there a fishery department or have you been able to trace how that money was spent?—Well, I have the records of it, but I have not gone into the details. Rutland Island was called Rutland Island at that time on account of the Duke of Rutland having been instrumental in getting the money spent. He was Lord Lieutenant. Some of the money was raised on the Conyngham estate. I have hunted up the question with regard to the fishing at that time, which brought in about £20,000 a year, and that is about the same as comes into that same district now since the Congested Districts Board have restarted the herring fishing. As I was saying yesterday, when we began our investigations in 1890 and 1891 we found that there was no herring fishing going on there, but that herrings were being imported from Scotland, packed in bulk in vessels as cargo. A vessel was lying at Burton Port beside the quay with her hatches off, selling the salt herrings in bulk to all the cadgers with carts that would come; and practically when herrings did turn up at Burton Port there were no nets to catch them. Father Bernard Walker, who was then the Parish Priest of Burton Port, applied to the Board for nets, and got nets; and the fishermen got nets, and boats multiplied till the fishing has reached its present dimensions. The Board bought the herrings at the beginning and cured them at Inishbow, but very soon the fishing passed into the hands of the trade, and the Board was able to withdraw. At the start the Board had to buy the herrings and cure them. In the latter days of the 18th century and beginning of the 19th century, there was a very important herring fishing going on all round that north coast of Donegal, and in Donegal Bay from Killybegs; and also in Galway Bay, particularly in South Connemara—Roundstone was the centre of it.

4311. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—In the beginning of the 19th century?—In the beginning of the 18th century, Roundstone was the great centre of the herring trade in Connemara. I have returns showing that

during that time the herring fishing at Roundstone was so good that as much as £500 a day was paid on the quay in Roundstone for herrings during two months.

4312. Mr. BRYCE.—What time of the year?—That I was just coming to, because it is a most important point.

4313. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—About how much?—About £500 a day. That was in 1825, and in the earlier days. The Report is dated 1835. There had been a long blank, and the fishing was revived in 1835, but in 1850 and 1860 there had been very heavy fishing on the Connemara coast. The time of the year when the fishing was at its best is also very interesting. It was at a time when we have no herring fishing going on now. The great fishing was in February, but it began in January, about the 12th of January, and it was all over early in March.

4314. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That would not be two months. From the end of January to the 1st of March would be only one month?—Well, it sometimes lasted for two months. It began from the 1st to the 12th of January, and it ended about the 1st of March. The herrings were in great numbers at that same time in Donegal Bay. Out of Killybegs alone, in the thirties, in 1850 and 1855, there were 700 boats fishing for herrings.

4315. Do you know the size of them?—They were nearly all row-boats. The way in which the business was worked was this. There were large boats belonging to the East Coast of Ireland, Sligo, principally, and Howth. Those boats were of about forty-five tons, and they used to go round with cargoes of salt to Killybegs, and carry on their deck a yawl, to fish with. The large boats anchored in Killybegs, and did so at the time that the Report that I am speaking of was written, and when that Commission—it is the Report of the Commission of 1835 I am now quoting from—when that Commission was sitting in Killybegs the fishing was in full swing, there were forty-five or fifty of those Sligo boats anchored there, and there were about 800 row-boats fishing, that is local boats, and the large boats, the yawls that the Sligo boats carried on their decks. Once or twice there were great disasters, and numbers of boats lost in winter storms in Donegal Bay, but the fishing was very successful for a great number of years.

4316. Mr. BRYCE.—Well, now, can you tell us, Mr. Green, whether this was in-shore fishing?—Close to shore.

4317. Close to shore?—Close to the shore.

4318. Very much like the autumn fishing now, and row-boats were able to manage it. Besides those Sligo boats there were a few boats from the Isle of Man, Cardigan, and thereabouts.

4319. And the Roundstone fishing was of the same character?—The Roundstone fishing was going on at the same time of the year.

4320. And of the same character?—And of the same character; the Roundstone fishing was worked by about 500 or 600 Connemara row-boats, and the Claddagh boats that came out from Galway, hooked on from seven or eight to fourteen or fifteen tons.

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About fifteen tons was the largest of them. The Commemora men at that time complained that the Claddagh men were doing better than they could with large boats, while they had only got small boats, and they were always wishing to have larger boats like the Claddagh men. I have stated that 500 boats were fishing, but I remember that at one time, it was said, there were 1,000 boats fishing at Commemora at one time, and of that 1,000 about 100 were hookers from the Claddagh of Galway. Smacks sailed up from Galway and loaded herrings at Roundstone, loaded them at sea, and took them off to Galway.

4821. They were cured?—They were cured.
4822. In barrels?—The custom then was to cure them in bulk in the hold of the vessel, and in stores to pile them up in salt. Of course, it was a very inferior way of curing them, but they did for the local demand. There was little export trade going on, and there was an enormous population in Ireland at that time. In spite of all this fishing the demand in Ireland for salt herrings was so great that the supply was not sufficient, and I have remembrance of great quantities of Scotch herrings being imported in those some years.

4823. But into the east coast, I suppose?—On the east coast. The difficulties of transit, of course, were enormous in the west, and they were great even to Galway. I have read accounts of carts going as far as Killybegny. The custom was for the carriers and pilfers that came with carts for herrings to Galway to bring coal from Killybegny; they left it in Galway, and took back loads of salt herrings right away into the centre of Ireland as far as Killybegny. One man gave evidence at that time. He was the principal salt merchant in Galway, and knew the amount of salt that was required, and the amount of herrings that were landed in one year. He said there were £32,000 worth of herrings cured in Galway. There were two fishings at that time.

4824. That was cured in the town of Galway?—I think most of that was certainly cured in the town of Galway, and there was in addition that which was cured in Roundstone, but how much I cannot say. The greater part of these herrings were brought up to Galway from the Commemora district, because the Claddagh men in giving evidence stated that the fishing ground was sixteen leagues from the town of Galway, and they had to go that distance to reach the fishing ground. They had a fishing in the winter, and they also had the harvest fishing at the same time that the fishing goes on now. Both on the Donegal coast and in Galway Bay they had the harvest fishing which goes on now, and the winter fishing that they had then which does not go on now. We have not been able to find much herrings on the coast in the time when this great winter fishing used to go on.

4825. May I ask what the spawning time of herrings is?—They spawn two seasons in the year. This is October. They are spawning now on the east coast of Ireland. This is the time for a certain set of herrings to spawn, and there is another time they spawn in the late spring, but the date they spawn is variable along the different parts of the country.

4826. At the spawning they are not of so good quality?—Not of the best quality; not the highest priced herrings.

4827. But after the spawning time?—Then they are spent.

4828. What is the spent time?—They will be spawning now, from this on to Christmas. Some of them will be getting spent.

4829. The CHAIRMAN.—What is the earliest time now that you find herrings on these coasts?—About April.

4830. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—And so recently as within the last few years, in the course of one season at all events, were not good herrings found off Tooling during the early months of the year?—They were. There are very few times of the year that you cannot get some herrings off the coast, but not in sufficient quantity to make a profitable commercial fishing; in the heads of all the bays herrings turn up in the winter. Right away up at the head of Galway Bay they will be getting herrings after Christmas, spent herrings; and away up in Buncarty Bay they get some herrings in the winter, but those are not

the kind of herrings that make a big fishery. The herrings of the old winter fishery were a larger class of herrings than the harvest herrings, and this distinction was so well recognised that the Claddagh boats which were fitted out for the herring fishing carried two separate sets of nets. They had special nets for the autumn fishing, and special nets for the winter fishing, and the mesh is described—a description which they still use—was Halfpenny Mesh for the autumn fishing and Penny Mesh for the winter fishing. That means that the mesh was larger for winter; and the herring was much larger and finer. The herrings of the winter fishing were 500 or less to the barrel, which means a large herring. The harvest herrings went about 800 to the barrel.

4831. The CHAIRMAN.—You told us that the earliest moment that you find herrings now is in April?—About end of April, that is the big shoals of herrings.

4832. And you have also said us that those winter herrings that you are speaking of, and that you said to catch in such numbers, were larger than the autumn herrings?—A larger herring than the autumn herring.

4833. And those herrings that you find in April, are they the same as the autumn herrings?—No; these herrings would be more like what the winter herrings were.

4834. Can you at all account for the reason of the change?—Well, Dr. O'Donnell asked me yesterday whether we had investigated all these things sufficiently. I was speaking then of other fish, name of cod, ling, and turbot, and I said we knew enough about the grounds they frequent, but I would be very wrong if I was taken as saying that we know all we might about herrings and migratory fish. We do not, and the Department are at present engaged in a most important fishery investigation in conjunction with other Continental countries. We are working on an international scheme for the investigation of these difficult questions.

4835. Is not that only in the North Sea?—Our business connected with it is all the west coast of Ireland. In Scotland, of course, they are working in the North Sea, and different countries are taking up sections of the North Sea, and right away up towards Iceland. These investigations go on simultaneously four times a year from the Dutch coast right round Scotland and into the Atlantic, and we are working under this scheme in the Atlantic off the west coast of Ireland. Certain stations have been selected where these investigations are carried out simultaneously. A great lot of information is being accumulated, and we hope to be able to throw some light on the causes and the conditions which bring about these strange migrations of fish.

4836. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How long has that inquiry been going on—five years, is it not?—It is about five years. We have been only going at it for three years.

4837. The CHAIRMAN.—So far as you know at present you know no cause for the difference in number of the herrings?—Well, we do not know.

4838. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is it fairly ascertained that low temperature in the depths of the sea has something to do with retarding the incoming of the shoals of mackerel?—There is no doubt that the temperature has a great deal to say to it, and a great deal to say to the development of fish. Some of these migrations are for food and some for spawning purposes, and undoubtedly when migration depends upon food supply there are conditions of temperature which are favourable for the production of the food which determine the migrations.

4839. The CHAIRMAN.—If it was a question merely of temperature these conditions would happen only occasionally. It might be that the difference in temperature was due to the gulf stream?—The two things are linked together in this way, that temperature largely depends upon the flow of the ocean currents, and some years certain bodies of water from the Atlantic move further north than in other years, and the whole condition of life and everything else in the sea is changed when these currents move further north in one year than they do in another, and the temperature follows them. Temperature also is an important cause of the flow of ocean water. It is variable, and the whole food supply and everything else connected with these migratory fish varies with the movements of the ocean water.

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4390. Do you know at all, or can you tell us what the reason of the decline in the fisheries at Roundstone and the Donegal coast has been?—The fish began to cease coming and the thing came gradually to an end.

4391. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Are you speaking now since 1835?—I am speaking of 1835, but there were other causes. But before I go to what happened in 1835 I would like to say this, that the time when the Barmouth herring fishing was at its best was the end of the 18th century. Also, about the year 1800 the Killybegs fishing was at its best; and later there came a complete blank of from five to ten years.

4392. What do you mean by "blank"?—The fish did not come, and the whole thing collapsed, and then in 1835 it was revived again, the fish had come back, and the men who gave evidence before that Commission stated that there had been this blank. Ever so many witnesses, men who had been going round, seamen, all sorts of people, all spoke of this great blank. I think the blank extended from about 1822 to 1827, or from that to 1833. The bounties were paid from 1819 to 1830, and it was within that time that the failure of all this winter herring fishing took place.

4393. Were not the bounties granted in consequence of the failure, to encourage the men to try to get the fish?—A fishery Board and bounties had existed in Scotland since 1806, and it was thought right to extend these advantages to Ireland. There were a number of famine times previous to the great famine, and it was, I think, in consequence of distress that the Commission of 1835 was appointed to see how they could deal with that distress. The idea of promoting the fisheries by bounties existed all through the 18th century.

4394. My point is do you think that the blank began before the bounties or the bounties before the blank?—The bounties began before the blank.

4395. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—1794 is the date of the institution of the bounties?—The bounties that I am speaking of, the last bounties that were organised under the Irish Fisheries Board began in 1819, and went on to 1830. They ceased in 1830, and the Scotch bounties ceased the same year. They were all abolished, I think, in 1830.

4396. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In view of your experience and knowledge, now, would you think it at all likely that during those ten blank years the fish were to be had, and that the fishermen did not go out sufficiently far into the ocean?—I do not know that they would have been found. The two times that this great winter fishing was in operation the fish were at different distances from the shore. It was one of the grievances that the men of Conemaire put forward. What they said was that the fish in 1835 were further off than they had been the last time, and they complained because they were not able to go to them in the same way that they used to when the fish were on the coast before. Now that the fish were further off, the Claddagh men had the best of it, while they were at a disadvantage.

4397. The CHAIRMAN.—You have no reason to suppose that if the fishermen of those days had gone further out to sea they would have found the fish?—I think not, because the Starries boats, and other boats that came there to buy herrings, and also to fish for herrings (because they carried fishing boats on the deck)—those boats were cruising to and fro on the coast, and were always on the look-out for herrings, and reported on one or two occasions having seen herrings, and having stopped to shoot their nets. One man reported that he came into a mass of herrings off Biffin, and shot his nets, and got magnificent herrings. That was in the winter time. I should say we have now two fishings, the summer fishing and the harvest fishing. They had only the harvest fishing and the winter fishing. But to show that the winter fishing was a different thing, with different shoals of fish, from the summer fishing, which now goes on, I think there is this fact to be remembered, that all those men that were fishing cod and ling on the coast then and cruising backward and forward, ever so often gave it as their opinion that there were great masses of herrings on the coast in the summer, but that they were not fished, except for bait for the lang lines. There was thus a little summer herring fishing.

4398. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—But if they were fishing for bait they were sure they were there?—Yes. Those intelligent men, who were masters of the large vessels which came round, and were accustomed to the coast for a great number of years, were all of opinion that summer fishing on that coast was then quite possible, but it did not go on. The summer herring fishing that we are working now has probably been always possible, but the local boats were too small to go to sea for it.

4399. The CHAIRMAN.—The winter fishing has disappeared?—The winter fishing has disappeared, and the reason I emphasised this was that if we are to consider the future there is always the possibility of this winter herring fishing turning up again.

4400. Mr. KATANGAH.—Has it never revived since 1835?—There are winter herrings caught in small quantities.

4401. But as a great fishery it has never revived?—It has never revived.

4402. And you can give no reason?—I cannot give any reason. Of course, at the Atlas Islands last winter there were some herrings caught in January and February. Those were quite close to the islands; some local shoals, that are always knocking about.

4403. Not of the same class?—Not of the same class that made the big herring fishing.

4404. The CHAIRMAN.—May I take you back to summarise what you have told us, to see if I have got it clearly. You have told us that the great prosperity of the fishery at Barmouth was in 1827?—From that to 1826.

4405. Then 1836 also was the date that you gave us when Roundstone was so flourishing?—Yes; up to about 1820 at Roundstone.

4406. From 1836 to 1839?—Yes.

4407. So that the decline had already taken place when the Commission reported in 1835?—The decline had taken place, but a revival had set in, and the fishing was, at the time that the Commission sat, in full operation.

4408. Did the decline take place earlier in the north than it did in Roundstone, or were they simultaneous?—As well as I can remember it was almost concurrent. I made some notes about the matter. No herring were taken at Roundstone from 1827 to 1835.

4409. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Did not that blank extend to Barmouth?—I thought it was on the whole coast?—I am dealing with Roundstone. The winter herring fishing at Killybegs failed altogether from 1822 to 1831 (these are the exact dates—I know it was about ten years); and the fishing at Roundstone began to fail later.

4410. The CHAIRMAN.—1827 to 1833?—Yes.

4411. It was practically concurrent then?—It was practically concurrent.

4412. When you spoke just now with regard to the Report of 1835, you stated that a revival had then taken place. Where was that revival at?—At Killybegs and Roundstone.

4413. How long did that revival last, and to what point did it grow?—I think it went on more or less till near the time of the famine, and I think the principal cause of the decline was the boats going to the bed after the bounties ceased, and the gear going to the bed; and then the famine time coming on.

4414. And do you think that between 1830 or 1835, and the time when you began your operations, there was no blank?—I think there was a very very great blank, because everything collapsed at the time of the famine, and we begin a new era after that.

4415. Perhaps I misunderstood you, but I thought that you said that the collapse of the fishing then was due to causes other than failure of the fish?—Well, I am getting out of my depth there a bit, because I depend on reports. We have not got any very good reports about that period. The Report of the Commission that sat in 1835 was one of the most careful Reports that have ever been written on Irish fisheries, and my information on everything immediately previous to that date is almost all gathered from that Report and from the evidence that was given at that time. The next information that we get about fishing is near the famine time, and the Report of 1844 shows a failure of herring at all stations, but a recovery in the condition of boats, and a good fishery for cod, ling, and haddock.

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4855. And what was the condition of things at the famine times?—There was a great number of boats in use just before the famine and a great deal of fishing going on.

Mr. BRYCE.—It would be very interesting to have that return of boats put in, because that, after all, will give some kind of idea.

4856. The CHAIRMAN.—The bounties were withdrawn in 1835.—In a Report of the Irish Fisheries for 1870 a summary of boats and crews was given. This is the first year in which the Inspector of Fisheries reported. They were created in 1830. There were Fishery Commissioners before that and since 1842. Our office has practically been continuous. My predecessors in office were attached to the Board of Works at one time and to the Inland Navigation at another time, and now we are joined to the Department of Agriculture, but we were an independent Board from 1870 to 1900. Well, in 1846, which was the year the famine began, there were reported to be 10,800 boats of all sizes employed, and 185,000 men employed in the Irish fisheries.

4857. Sir JOHN COLSON.—That is for the whole of Ireland?—For the whole of Ireland.

4858. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Including current?—No; this is fishermen only.

4859. Mr. BRYCE.—There is no distinction between counties or districts at all—you could not give us the figures for what are now the Congested Districts?—I dare say we have those returns, but I have not come across them. In 1844 there were 268 first-class boats reported from stations in the congested districts, and 1,887 for all Ireland; and 7,500 second-class, against about 14,000 for all Ireland. I am sure that I could prepare a memorandum which would answer this question.

4871. The CHAIRMAN.—I think that in view of the question of how we are to spend money in encouraging the fisheries round those coasts, it would be of enormous value and use to the Commission if you could get us all the information that you might be able to find bearing on the rise and fall of this coast fishing during the last 100 years?—Well, that was one reason why I went back to these eighteenth century times.

4872. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Any indication of the permanence of the fishery would be very important?—Yes, my lord.

4873. Arising out of your very interesting historical account of the fisheries, have you any record for centuries before the eighteenth of the fact that there was a large export trade in salt fish from Lough Swilly and Killybegs to Spain?—Yes. I have gone back to the time of Queen Elizabeth, and in those days, and in the time of Philip and Mary, and in the time of Henry the Eighth, there was a great fishery by Spanish boats all along the west coast of Ireland.

4874. Mr. BRYCE.—Herring?—For large fish, as well as I can make out. The boats that came were from Spain, and I have come upon a Report by Sir Humphrey Gilbert, who was told off to write a Report for the Queen on the subject of Spanish fishing on the west of Ireland, and he reported that in that year there were 600 Spanish fishing boats fishing on the west coast of Ireland. That was about the year 1570.

4875. I think in an interesting paper you read before the Royal Geographical Society you attributed the way in which the Spaniards were able to come into those harbour places on the west of Ireland to the familiarity of their pilots with the west of Ireland through the fishing?—There is no doubt about it that for centuries the Spaniards were in the habit of fishing off the west coast of Ireland, and this means that the crews of those 600 boats must have been acquainted with the harbours, and a great number of such men must have been in the Spanish Armada.

4876. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Is there any record of any Spanish fishing settlements in connection with those boats?—There are ever so many traditions about Spanish settlements on the south-west and west coasts, and there are numerous allusions to them in the State Papers. The place frequented most continuously was the headland of Bunkava. A favorite fishing ground was off the Durrage, and another off the Blasket. Dingle was a favorite port. Ballinacorney was a prominent station. Ballinacorney they called Valentia-men. And then there was Valentia. O'Sullivan Beare levied a considerable tax on the Spanish fishing boats that came into Bunkava, and that was one of the reasons alleged why he wished to stick to his castle when all others had surrendered. Their name for Beatty Bay was Anasleas de Pencoas.

4877. The CHAIRMAN.—It does not come within the terms of our reference, but is it not the fact that the Claddagh women in Galway are very like Spanish women of to-day?—I have heard it said. But the trade in Galway was more a kind of trade in all sorts of commodities. At the time this fishing business was carried on off the west of Ireland by the Spaniards there was a great trade between Galway and Spain—and between Waterford and Spain, too—but there was more trade between Galway and Spain than there was between Galway and any other part of the world—England, Ireland, or Scotland.

4878. Sir JOHN COLSON.—But with the ample knowledge you have of those times is it fair to make the general assumption that when the fishing in those times was carried on and prospering it was not carried on by Irishmen at all, but by Spaniards?—The Irish population of those days was very small. The probability is that the population of Ireland in the time of Elizabeth was not much more than a million, and the Irish people of those days lived upon fish food. They were nearly all a pastoral people, and they lived very largely upon their flocks and herds, and they did not want fish so much as they did afterwards, when they came to live on potatoes. They wanted salt herrings with the potatoes, but they did not want salt herrings with a haddock.

4879. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Mr. Green, is your general position with regard to these fisheries that you are of opinion that they may be largely developed in these Congested Districts, and that you formed part of that opinion upon historical reasons?—I think that the conditions have changed, that there are a great many conditions to be considered between the supply of fish and the development of fisheries.

4880. But you have no doubt, on the general principle, that these fisheries can be developed to a larger extent than they now exist?—I have no doubt at all that there is plenty of fish.

The CHAIRMAN.—Those are general considerations that we shall want to inquire into later on when Mr. Green has got to the end of his evidence. I am afraid if we begin on that subject we shall wander very far away from the immediate point.

4881. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I thought Mr. Green had finished his historical summary?—I find developments of fisheries depends upon two things, one the conditions under which the fishing trade can be carried on, and the other the supply of fish. I have been speaking hitherto altogether of the supply of fish and the movement of fish on the coast. If the Chairman considers it desirable, of course, I can go into the question of the present conditions under which the fishing trade is carried on.

4882. But in general the fishing trade in Ireland does not differ very much from what it is in any other country?—No.

4883. The CHAIRMAN.—You were saying that this revival, after the years of blank, took place in 1830?—In or about 1830.

4884. And went on till the famine times?—With minor fluctuations it undoubtedly went on till the famine times.

4885. Was there any revival at all after the famine? I may say that there was no revival after the famine till the year 1852, when the spring mackerel fishing, an entirely brand-new trade, was discovered.

4886. No revival of herring fishing?—Well, as Howth and Arklow, up in the Irish Sea, there were good years of herring fishing in the time between those years. I could get the particulars of that Howth fishing and the Arklow fishing—the east coast fishing—easily from the returns that we have, but there was no big revival.

4887. Let us stick to the Commensals, Roundstone, and Donegal fishing?—There was no revival.

4888. After the famine?—No.

4889. Tell you revived it?—Till the Congested Districts Board got at it.

4890. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Do you mean that the trade absolutely ceased or that the fishing was partially carried on and produced very little?—Well at the time when we began there were no fishing boats out of Roundstone at all, and there were no fishing boats out of the Aran Islands except a few canoes. I think the whole thing had got to an end and had gone almost out of memory, because when we came to develop the fishery we had to train up new crews, and

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in this way one of the greatest difficulties, by the use of instructors who were skilled fishermen to educate these men into the ways of fishing. We could not get crews that knew how to handle the nets.

4891. What year did you begin?—We began in 1898. 4892. The CHAIRMAN.—When you made your survey in 1899 did you find herrings in great quantities in these places?—We did not find herrings, because we were not equipped for it. We fished for mackerel and we had only a few herring nets, and we had to trust to what we could hear from the local people. And so it was not till 1899 that we began to experiment in the herring business at all. The boats that the Board fitted out for the spring mackerel fishing were also fitted out with herring nets, and we set them to work after the mackerel was over at the herrings. But during the whole time the Gliddagh men have always been fishing for herrings to a small extent in the head of Galway Bay, but not attempting the old winter fishing.

4893. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That is for the local demand—a small number of boats along the coast?—Yes, chiefly in the head of the bay.

4894. The CHAIRMAN.—What I am not quite clear about is whether the insignificant nature of the fishing that was carried on in these places between the time you have told us, nearly 100 years ago, when the whole fishing trade was in a very prosperous state, and the time the Board was founded, was due to the lack of herrings or to the lack of enterprise amongst the population?—It was certainly due to the lack of herrings which reacted on the want of energy in the population. It was due to the lack of herrings, because we have not got the herrings now where we are fully equipped. We cannot get the herrings in paying quantities in those same places where they were so abundant.

4895. But you have them on the Donegal coast?—Oh, yes; we have got them on the Donegal coast, but I am speaking of Connemara, which is our principal difficulty now.

4896. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Am I to understand that there was a failure of potatoes that caused the famine and a failure of herrings concurrent with that?—At the time the famine took place in 1846 there was an abundance of herrings. It is a well known fact that 1847 was a very big herring year. But the people could not live on herrings alone, and the decay of gear had been gradual since the bonny time. The boats and gear had all been going to the bad, and there was no organisation for helping fishermen. The loan system had died out, and there was no way of helping men to acquire new materials. They were very crowded and they were very poor, and they could not get the gear to catch the fish, and then when the weakness of the famine came on they had not the strength. The people on the coast were dying in thousands while the sea was alive with fish. At Newport, County Mayo, herrings were selling for 4s. per 100 in 1847, and £300 paid in a day.

4897. I understand that there was a certain amount of fishing going on up to the time of the famine, and then comes a blank?—Yes.

4898. And there was a fair amount of fishing being done when the famine overtook the country?—There was.

4899. Why was that suspended?—I think I could not go into this question fully at this moment. I have suggested to you the reasons, but I would really have to go back upon a number of Reports that I have read, but I have not them in my mind at present.

4900. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Would you allow me just to repeat a question as to which there has been, I think, a little mistake. You have told us that in the year of the famine as a matter of fact there was a good supply of herrings but no means of catching them?—Yes; I have seen that in the reports.

4901. After the famine the fisheries ceased for some time?—Yes.

4902. I think you said that the cessation of the fishing after the famine was the result of their being no fish?—Undoubtedly; the fish went away too.

4903. How do you know that, if there was no fishing?—There was always a little fishing. The men generally knew very well when there was any fish. When the Board began they found that they could not catch them; in 1895 a very complete experiment was organised by the Mann fleet of boats in Donegal Bay. The herrings were not to be had where they were to be caught long ago. And even in the autumn herring fishing, which is now carried on from

the Aran Islands, and from Connemara, and round there, the fishing is nothing at all to compare with the fishing of a hundred years ago.

4904. Then, the famine and the failure of the fish occurred concurrently?—The failure followed the famine.

4905. The famine had the effect of stimulating the migration of the herring?—A great many of the people who emigrated after the famine were some of the best fishermen of the country. Whole communities of those went to America. And it was the Donegal men who emigrated owing to the famine that started the long-line fishing on the Banks of Newfoundland.

4906. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You have given several reasons for the cessation of fishing along the coast concurrently with the famine. For a year or so the supply of fish was plentiful. But the men were dying of starvation and were quite unfit to do work. That was one reason?—Yes. Their market for fish failed, and they pawned their gear to buy meal.

4907. So far as salted herrings are concerned, there is not much inducement to have them unless there are potatoes also?—That is so.

4908. Of those who went away and abandoned the country in despair, there was a large portion of the fishing population among them?—The best part of the fishing population.

4909. This reason would be almost sufficient to break the continuity of the fishing industry?—Yes. It was the combination of all those circumstances that did cause the industry to go out of sight.

4910. The CHAIRMAN.—It would seem, from the question that the Bishop asked you, that the disappearance of the fish played no part in it. You think, too, that there was not sufficient fish to make fishing profitable?—I think after the famine there was no great influx of fish to cause a revival.

4911. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Following up his lordship's question to you, does not that rather go to show that the fishing population were more dependent upon potatoes than upon fishing? If the effect of the potato failure was such that any fishing that was going on ceased, is it not fair to take it as an indication that the fishing population on the west coast and in the Congested Districts were then more dependent upon the potatoes than upon the fishing?—The famine population which did exist on the west coast were absolutely dependent upon the potatoes.

4912. But no man in his senses would go down to live on the southern littoral of Connemara and the Rosses for the sake of the potato. You say in the time of Elizabeth there was a population of about a million?—Yes.

4913. Then the population on the littoral was very small, and there was very little fishing. How do you account for the fact that the largest and densest population is on the very littoral where nothing is to be made by the land?—The facilities for growing potatoes were great where they had the seaweed for manure, and a great demand for fish arose to eat with the potatoes.

4914. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Surely there was very little potatoes grown in the early part of Elizabeth's reign?—I am not speaking of that time. There was more at all then, because none had been introduced. The people at that time were living mainly on their cattle.

4915. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would not it be more a question on the agricultural lines for Mr. Doran, how the population came to get driven on to the barren lands?—It might be. I would a great deal sooner that he should answer it than that I should be expected to answer it.

4916. Mr. KAVANAGH.—For how many years did the bounties go on?—From 1839 to 1830.

4917. What was their nature exactly?—They were bounties upon the outfit and building of boats; so much a ton, and so much on a boat that was fitted out for the season's fishing; and then bounties on barrels of herrings cured, and so much per hundred-weight of cod and ling cured.

4918. Grants given much the same as the Congested Districts Board gives now?—The Congested Districts Board are not giving grants.

4919. But they are giving assistance?—The ways in which the Congested Districts Board are at present giving assistance is by having boats built and giving them to the fishermen on terms of repayment. It has worked out profitably on commercial lines, and the only thing the Board loses over that business is in the instruction of new crews, and on the bad debts which.

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of course, accused where they tried to provide men with boats who were really not solvent, and who have not had sufficient luck in the fishing to make money and pay the instalments.

4020. But what is the difference between that and accepting the bounty?—Well, it is a different name.

4021. But it is the same process?—It is assistance.

4022. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That it is not payment by results as the bounty was?—It is not payment by results as the bounty was.

4023. The CHAIRMAN.—The moment the bounties were withdrawn in 1830, the fisheries began to go to the bad?—Undoubtedly, there was a great collapse after the bounties were stopped in the number of boats in the returns. But there were great frauds in connection with the bounties which ran up the number of boats in the returns engaged in fishing. The statistics are not altogether reliable as to the number of boats engaged. And the supervision in the time of the bounties was not sufficient.

4024. Have you any information as to the reason that induced the Government to withdraw the bounties?—Oh, Free Trade came in.

4025. It was not because it was the opinion of the Government of the day that the fisheries were then so firmly established, that they could stand on their own feet?—Oh, no; the whole idea came to an end.

4026. Sir JOHN COLOM.—But Free Trade did not come in until after the bounties ceased?—But it was being talked about.

4027. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Adam Smith, in "The Wealth of Nations" fixed upon the fishery bounties as an illustration against the system that then existed?—Yes.

4028. And that gave precedence to this bounty question?—Yes. It was looked on as a bad policy. The report of 1836 discussed the introduction of bounties again. It did not actually recommend it; but arising out of it a Bill was brought into Parliament to re-establish the Irish bounties, but it was thrown out. I suppose we must consider the possibility of developing the fisheries, and Mr. Sutherland has asked me about the possibility of developing them; I should, therefore, like to say something about the material and crews we have to deal with.

4029. The CHAIRMAN.—Have you finished what you were dealing with now?—About the days gone by I think there is one thing, if you allow me to go back on what I said yesterday. I was trying to give a picture of the fisheries that exist now, and I omitted yesterday several important things as to the present state of the fisheries. I have been talking a good deal about the drift-net fishing. I have alluded a little bit to the cod and ling fishing, with lines. But a very important industry is the lobster fishing, which is always going on, and which, according to statistics, brings in over £23,000 a year in the completed districts alone, though probably the amount recorded would be nearer to £50,000 a year if we had accurate statistics. I know this year and last year in one of the poorest districts £2,000 have been paid for lobsters among the poorest islanders. I have known a case this year of two men in a canvas canoe dividing £48 between them after the season. £24 going into a poor household would add very considerably to its comforts. That is a fishery that goes on every year, and all through the depression.

4030. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is it pretty constant in amount?—There are good years and bad years, years of high prices and low prices. When the oyster scare was on the price of lobsters went up very high, for people in England who had been eating oysters for supper went in for lobster salad, and that put the price up from eight shillings to thirteen shillings a dozen.

4031. Sir JOHN COLOM.—Do you include crabs?—On the West coast of Ireland there is no export of crabs. The lobster fishing is a very constant source of earning in some of the poorest districts, for it is constantly carried on by these men. Lately there has been a great development of salmon fishing on the north coast of Donegal; and men who are employed in the herring fishing in autumn and spring go out for salmon fishing in the summer. And they have been killing thousands of salmon along that part of the sea.

4032. Away from the rivers?—Oh, yes. One buyer sent away 500 boxes of salmon from the boats that delivered to him, and he did not get half that were landed at that one port.

4033. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What does a box represent? How many salmon would go to a box?—I don't know whether ten salmon or more than ten salmon would go to a box. Drift net fishing for salmon on a small scale has been going on on this coast for a great number of years—well, for certainly twenty years. But in the last five years there has been this great development of salmon fishing in the sea. In the Letterkenny district alone out of the licences paid for, the Board of Conservators have been able to keep a steamer to see that the law is enforced.

4034. Sir JOHN COLOM.—Is the salmon fishing close to the shore?—Some of the boats fish about three miles off, and sometimes boats that have been fishing seven miles off and even further than that out to sea have got good shots of salmon.

4035. Is it the case that the law now requires a licence for killing salmon at a distance of over three miles from the shore?—Well, a man must go through the water within the three mile limit, and he must not have the salmon nets without a licence if he is going to land.

4036. That is the way he is caught?—Yes. If he stops outside the limit he need not have it; he is on the high seas. It is a very important source of income on the Donegal coast. Whether it will last is, of course, another question.

4037. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Has the increase in the salmon fishing outside affected the inland rivers?—That is a very knotty point, and we have recently been holding public inquiries into that. The contention is that the catching of salmon out at sea is ruining the rivers, and we have under consideration, at the present moment, bye-laws, which we have made, but that is not justice at present. My colleague tells me there are 2,000 people in Donegal employed in the salmon fishing.

4038. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Sea salmon fishing?—Yes, sea salmon fishing. Besides the coast of Donegal, this fishing went on on the north coast of Mayo during the course of last summer—it is a specially poor place—and they made a lot of money out of the salmon fishing. One man wrote up to me and said they had a very good year's fishing off that coast.

4039. Mr. KAVANAGH.—There seems to be as much salmon, looking over Cornub Bridge now, as there was a good many years ago?—Yes.

4040. The CHAIRMAN.—Has there been any trouble on the north Mayo coast with regard to the salmon fishing in the rivers or have you had any trouble like you had in Donegal on that point?—It is very difficult for me to express an opinion on that subject, because, of course, I know what has been going on in some of the rivers there.

4041. Very well. We shall hear it ourselves when we are going round, I suppose?—I think there is one thing that I should consider in relation with the possibility of development, and that is the personnel of the population, and the kind of people we have got to deal with, and the difficulties we have had, and the assistance we have got from the different people we have met on the coast. You see the fishing business comes into competition with other industries in various places, and that has all to be taken into consideration in the fishery development. In some districts help is wanted, and, at the beginning when we got boats for training crews, we found it sometimes difficult to get men to go away from their kelp burning. In South Connemara, too, the men have a constant source of income in carrying turf from Connemara to Galway, and whenever we have tried to get crews from South Connemara into the fishing boats, we have found they have always been bunkering after the turf, and going back to carry turf whenever the fishing slowed down. They leave the fishing boats then and go back to the turf-carrying. The turf-carrying is a constant source of income to these people. For generations they have lived by it, and such a population would not exist in South Connemara if it were not for the turf-carrying. There is a constant demand for turf in the north of Clare, Galway, and in the Aran Islands, where there is no turf. That part of Connemara is almost a mine, and these men are the miners, and that is the real reason of the present large population in that district. If the fishing was very good, we would get them to come away from the turf, but when the fishing is bad they will not come. The fishing is not good enough to induce them to leave.

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THE CHAIRMAN.—I think we shall come to that later on. I see you have got a paragraph in your Memorandum in regard to Rossmore.

4943. MR. SUTHERLAND.—Now, Mr. Green, to revert to our general question, are you of opinion that something can be done through the fisheries practically to relieve congestion or assist to relieve it?—It can certainly relieve it, and if we could go on for a certain number of years and make the men into fishermen, then we would do a great deal for the relief of congestion. But when I say make men into fishermen it takes generations—it will take a couple of generations at least before you can establish the habit of following fish at sea from place to place and making fishing a business. The custom hitherto has been to have boats for other purposes, and when fish come near to their homes for the men to put their nets on board, go out, and catch them, and then relinquish the fishing again.

4944. That habit that exists would be a serious obstacle to the further development of the fisheries of Ireland?—It is a most serious obstacle and one of the obstacles we are combating to the best of our ability. We are trying to build up fishermen as fishermen, pure and simple, because we believe, when we look round to the Scotch boats, we see that the men up, say, in Banthine, can live in the greatest comfort out of the local fishing—but in order to do that they have to wander over hundreds of miles of sea sometimes to get good fishing. So it comes to this: we have a certain amount of fishing on our west coast. We want to train up men to take the full value out of the local fishing, and then when it is not to be had near their homes, to go to places where the fishing is really good, put in a season there and then come back to their homes; such men will make money out of fishing which will enable them to live in comfort.

4945. Are you prepared to say you have succeeded in your policy to some extent?—I am prepared to say that we have succeeded to some extent on the coast of Donegal, and this year we have succeeded in inducing some, by the mere offer of pilots, to leave the Galway coast and go to the Donegal coast for the herring fishery. As soon as the fishing was over on the Galway coast, five or six boats and three boats from Achill left for the Donegal fishing.

4946. Would it be true to say that the difference between the old and the new boats is that in old times they waited for the fishing to come to them and now they must go to where the herrings are?—That is what has happened. They always did wait for the fishing to come to them. Few of these men on the west coast went anywhere to look for fish. The men who did go away were men from the south and east of Ireland. The Kinsale men went round and so did the men from the east coast, and a few of the latter do so still.

4947. And the condition of success then would be the existence of good fishing grounds. Are there a great many good fishing grounds, ascertained, on the west of Ireland?—There are grounds which are rich in cod and ling at times. In the years when the Congested Districts Board began there was an abundance of cod and ling on those grounds, and we thought that we would do a very good business in opening curing stations for cod and ling, which would give employment to the islanders and the coast population when other fishing was not going on. But, after a few years, we found that the cod and ling had cleared off and could not be got in paying quantities, and at present that is so.

4948. And are these fishing grounds close in or far out at sea?—They are within a distance of ten miles from the shore, many of them.

4949. And they are within the possibility of being worked by these comparatively small boats?—They are. The water deepens very rapidly off the west coast of Ireland, and at fifty miles out in most cases the depth of water is too great for fishing.

4950. And an element of considerable importance, as you well know, Mr. Green, is the facilities for the disposal of the fish that are landed—I mean communication by rail or steamer or otherwise. Are you well supplied with those?—I think the Chairman asked me yesterday to prepare a memorandum on that subject and I have done so. I have got it here now, and I also was asked yesterday to say what I had formerly recommended in the way of improved transit.

4951. Does that include the question of piers, Mr. Green?—The whole question of piers I was coming to. As Lord Dudley suggested, we might follow the order of my memorandum, and piers come into that memorandum.

4952. In regard to the question of piers, it is a great question of policy in your opinion to have a great number of small piers, small, minor piers?—I think that our experience is that for the fishery in the West of Ireland, those small piers and small landing places are essential.

4953. Then how does that bear on the question of communication? Is not one large centre, with a railway behind it, better than a multitude of these small piers?—I think I have put that in the statement I handed in.

It is a question of general policy. Is it desirable, do you think, to multiply these small piers?—Speaking generally I say that costly works are needed only where special transit facilities exist, or where the expenditure can create better transit facilities, or where the fishing is so good that fleets of fishing craft may be expected to congregate, and where facilities for transit would consequently be provided as a commercial enterprise.

4954. And have you had these conditions before your mind always when recommending a grant for a harbour?—I have had those conditions always before my mind, but it must be remembered that the Congested Districts Board have funds sufficient only for making small landing places and they have not sufficient for dealing with large and expensive undertakings.

4955. And would it not be better to wait until the reserves accumulate?—It might be.

4956. Rather than spend them on small piers which may afterwards have to be superseded?—Undoubtedly, we always want money. That is the difficulty always with the Treasury. If we had more money we would do more and that has to be got.

4957. But the Treasury does not prevent you saving up your money until you have sufficient to make a big harbour instead of a small pier. Have you followed that policy?—We have followed the policy of trying to develop the fishing by means of landing places and piers so far as our funds would permit, but we have found that the improvement of small landing places is extremely valuable, and we have been able to do a great deal in that line, because the fishing, as I pointed out yesterday, is to a very large extent sea-boat fishing. A great many fishings that take place off the West of Ireland can be prosecuted by small boats much more easily than by large boats, because the fish are close to the shore.

4958. Your difficulty with that fishing is the export of the fish landed, unless you have some means of clearing the fish you will have a difficulty of transport?—There is that difficulty, but we have two things to consider—the curing trade and the fresh fish trade. Facilities of transit are most important with the fresh fish trade, but the small piers are just as good as the big ones for the curing trade. And when the curing is going on, a large number of families are benefited by it all along the coast. The cures provide transit—one firm will bring its own steamer, or two or three firms will combine, or again, a steamer belonging to some trading company will find it worth while to go round and pick up the barrels. In some cases the large firms send their own tramp steamer round to pick up, so there is no difficulty in collecting the cured fish at all.

4959. Fresh fish—there is the difficulty?—Those curing stations that are near the railway heads have an advantage in being able to despatch a quantity of fish to America by getting a telegram that the market is favourable. In some places men have made a great deal of money by being able to despatch like that over men who lived in more isolated places, and could not avail themselves of the next American steamer that was leaving Liverpool.

4960. And this consideration is that these small piers or harbours are generally shallow, and, if you contemplate the development of the fisheries, one way will be an increase in the size of the boats. But is not it possible that you may have a difficulty in future in having these piers deep enough for these boats to land at?—On the west coast of Ireland you cannot

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build piers in absolutely exposed places. If these large piers are to be built they can only be built in sheltered harbours, and in some cases those sheltered harbours are too far away from the fishing grounds for the small boats to fish from them.

4901. Would not the boats gather at these centres and prosecute the fishing?—They would have to be larger boats, and they cannot fish where row-boats can fish. Row boats can fish in safety where large boats cannot.

4902. That is unsafe?—Yes. A large boat cannot shoot her nets unless she has a couple of miles of sea for them to drift over, but a row-boat can shoot her nets within one hundred yards of the rocks. There are two important fisheries with our own boats—the autumn mackerel fishing and the herring. The autumn herring fishing is undoubtedly close to the shore, and the autumn mackerel fishing is almost close to the shore. I must not be taken as making these statements too general, because there are places where owing to the configuration of the coast the mackerel do not come in, and in those places the large boats do fish. From Baltimore, Cape Clear, Castle Townsend, Glenties, and Kinsale large boats go to sea, and they fish about three miles off the coast for the autumn mackerel. Similarly in Donegal in the summer fishing you want large boats.

4903. You are undoubtedly aware of the developments that are taking place very rapidly in the fishing all round the coast of Great Britain at the present, that is by the propulsion being changed from the sail and oar to steam?—Yes, to steam.

4904. Have you thought of the effect of these improvements, that they may come into competition very strongly with the sort of boat you are dealing with at the present time?—They are doing so already. That is one of the things I suggested I would like to speak of before we are done. I have been speaking so far as to the supply of fish on the coast. I will shortly speak of the present condition of the fish trade, and that would bring in the introduction of a system which has revolutionized the whole fish trade. The fishing is declining, you know, not only from the point of view of the supply; but there are entirely new conditions of marketing and trading, and these things have to be considered. They are just as important in talking about the position of Irish fisheries as the question of the supply of fish.

4905. That is so. You point out on that diagram the well-known fluctuations in the fisheries, and afterwards that there was competition. You have noticed one result, the application of steam fishing is to rather equalize the fishing and take away these great variations and uncertainties that existed before?—That is so, because the fish are generally to be found in some place or other.

4906. The steam vessels go a farther distance, and you find that this equalizes the supply?—When we began, even if we had a good supply of large boats we had not enough men trained to go a long distance to look for the fish. The effect of the fluctuations was like this—one year we had spring mackerel worth £175,000 in the season, and another year it was only worth £250,000. In the year that mackerel was worth £175,000 we had any number of people who wanted new boats and expensive facilities which would pay if fishing remained on the high level. Then when a bad year came these people found they could not run the instalments, and in order to pay for their boats they had to look forward to some year that would be better.

4907. If you had large boats with proper appliances instead of remaining at home in the bad year they would go and fish somewhere else?—That is exactly what we are trying to insist them to do.

4908. Have you made much progress in that at any particular point?—We have had some success. We have been unfortunate in other experiments in made in that way.

4909. What was the case?—For instance, we have sent boats in the years gone by from Mayo up to North Donegal.

4910. How did they do?—Unfortunately, the year one boat went, it anchored in Downing's Bay, and remained nearly two months, and there was no fish. It happened to be a bad year in Downing's Bay. Having spent all their money and everything else,

they came home, and about a week afterwards the fishing started, and there was a fair season in Downing's Bay, but that was late in the year.

4911. They should not have stayed two months when there was no fishing on?—I think they showed great perseverance, and there was no better place offering to go to. It was the best place, according to our experience.

4912. You persuaded them to go from Mayo to that particular locality?—That is so. We tried recently with men along the Galway coast, offering them free pilotage, an expert fisherman on board free. A good many of them were new hands, and it was no good taking these crews unless they had some man among them who would know the coast. We have done that, and three boats have gone from Achill this year and more from other places, but it is only within the last week they arrived.

The CHAIRMAN.—I see that most of these points are dealt with in your memorandum.

4913. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I don't like to interrupt, but I would like to ask, as a matter of fact, if these different Galway boats are succeeding in their efforts at Downing's Bay to catch fish?—As far as I know the fishing is not very good, and they have just gone. It is not very good for the last few weeks.

4914. I have heard that in the last few days £2,000 worth of herrings have been landed in Downing's Bay?—I did not hear that. The last time I heard from them things were rather slack. That is, they were slack in quantity, but, of course, good in price.

4915. Bearing upon this question, do you know that quite recently herrings came in so near the shore in Inver Bay that the large boats could not follow them, and there was room only for the smaller boats?—That is so. The herrings were in such a place that the large boats could not fish.

4916. It would be your idea that herring fishing would give ample scope for small boats. The larger boats are for the open sea fishing?—If the larger boats are introduced, you must know you cannot make them pay by remaining in one place. The men who take these boats and have put capital into them must go out to sea; they must be prepared to go a long distance and have longer seasons, so as to catch more money.

4917. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Then the small boats are almost as profitable as the large boats?—In the good years a small boat, a canoe, fishing on the Kerry coast divided more money at the end of the season than the men in the largest and most well-equipped boats.

4918. At the present moment small boats fishing is as good as the fishing in large boats?—It may be just as good in the small boats as in the large. They have divided about £300 per man very often in the mackerel fishing.

4919. The larger boats may change their position more?—They can go everywhere.

4920. The smaller boats cannot?—Not beyond a certain point. The men who have small boats are all farmers, or very nearly all, and they have got their potato garden, and cow, and various other means of paying for a bad year, and that compensates them to some extent for a failure in the fishing, and helps the making of a living. They only take up the fishing if the fishing comes their way, and incur little capital expenditure.

4921. They are really not fishermen in that case?—Well, in some of the districts you will find a body of men who are fishermen pure and simple, and perhaps in villages along the coast there are some, but not many.

4922. Not many, you say?—In most cases they have got patches of land. There are hardly any of them who have not got some land.

4923. The CHAIRMAN.—Shall we go on to piers, following your Memorandum?—I shall be very glad, indeed. I was asked yesterday to give this Memorandum about the things I recommended in 1887.

4924. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—As you have referred so far back, have you recently looked at the proceedings of the Commission which reported in 1837?—I have. That was the Commission of 1835.

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4985. Do you bear in mind a prominent and salient recommendation made by the Commissioners in that Report, namely—"The concentration of efforts and funds on centres which contain natural facilities with the professional aptitude on the part of the population." That was the great principle which, after consideration of the policy of providing facilities for fisheries in the preceding years, the Commission recommended for the purpose of making up the leeway—the concentration on particular localities, and the creation of piers and ships at particular localities taken with reference to fishing convenience and to the aptitude of the people, namely, whether they were a hardy race of fishermen or not. Has that principle been adopted recently or within your experience in the selection of places for piers?—This is a question which we have just been discussing.

4986. THE CHAIRMAN.—We have not really discussed the general question of piers?—I have included it in the general memorandum on piers.

4987. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I am not anxious to press you just now upon this particular point, which, however, is a most important point. We have found, I think, that the fisheries capable of development are largely those which were carried on by small boats, and the Congested Districts Board has facilitated the hauling up of and landing from these boats by small works in a great number of places rather than by concentrating efforts and funds upon large piers.

4988. When we come to deal with your Memorandum, and with what you have already said, I will examine you upon that point. Now I wish to ask if you remember that, in the year 1833, a large expenditure, £250,000, was incurred, and the criticism passed upon that expenditure was that the money was frittered away in small ships and small piers owing to the desire of the persons having the disposal of it to meet the applications of various parts of the country as far as possible. In the disposal of that great sum of money the principle of the Report of 1837 seems to have been completely lost sight of. That is the point I should like to deal with when the time comes?—I am quite ready to answer about that.

4989. THE CHAIRMAN.—Let us begin on the Memorandum?—I make no objection.

4990. I see the first paragraph of your Memorandum deals with your own personal position, and on that I should like to ask you a question. You occupy a sort of dual position, don't you, Mr. Green?—That is so.

4991. You are a member of the Congested Districts Board; you supervise the expenditure of the money for fisheries with regard to that Board, and as Inspector of Fisheries you are connected with the work done by the new Department?—That is so.

4992. I want to ask you, since you are under that new Department is it your experience that you have been able to work upon the development of the fisheries in the congested districts with greater facilities on account of the fact of the constitution of the Congested Districts Board, or have you found you have been able to get to do the same work as easily in other parts of Ireland in connection with the new Department?—That is a rather comprehensive question, and I think the answer I would give to it is that we can do the same class of work in the Department as is done by the Congested Districts Board, except that the fishing grounds, which have been proved to be capable of development, are off the congested districts, where the Department's funds are not applicable.

4993. I do not quite follow you. You can do the same class of work?—We do the same class of work in the Department, but the non-congested area is not as favourable for new fisheries development as the ground we have to deal with in the congested districts. There are better fishing grounds off the congested districts than off the non-congested districts. A number of men from the non-congested districts come for their fishing to the congested districts coasts. So that the areas under the Congested Districts Board are more promising than the areas covered by the Department. With that one important difference I can say we can do exactly the same class of work.

4994. Let me put it in another way. Supposing the work of fishery development, the encouragement of the habits of fishing among the people, that has recently been done by the Congested Districts Board, was handed over to the Agricultural Department, and done in connection with the work which you are doing now in other parts of Ireland, do you think it would be as well done under an arrangement of that sort as it has been by the Congested Districts Board?—I think the Congested Districts Board has done its work admirably, and the other Department has done its work as well as it can. In the question of fishery development, the Department is quite competent to handle funds for that purpose.

4995. The Department is in that position?—The delay in dealing with funds for purposes other than sea fisheries in the Department is considerable. We have to explain our schemes to the Agricultural Board; we have got to wait to see them, and obtain approval. The sea fishery money is different from the other money entrusted to the Department. They have a free hand in the expenditure of the £10,000 for sea fisheries. But the other funds have to go through the process of coming up before the Boards to decide upon, and be discussed, and considerable delay exists. In the case of the sea fisheries money the Department decides itself whether the money is to be spent on certain things or certain schemes so far as that £10,000 is concerned, and it does, or does not, do it as it decides. And for that reason the position of the Department in dealing with the fisheries money is very much the same as the position of the Congested Districts Board. In dealing with this money the Department has as free a hand as the Board.

4996. My point is this—it is an important one, I think—we have been told, with regard to other operations of the Congested Districts Board, land operations and so forth, that the Board has been in the position of doing better work than perhaps otherwise it would, by reason of its independence of other institutions, and it has been suggested to us that if their function in connection with the land were handed over to any other department connected with the government their hands might be tied and consequently the work itself might not be so good as it has been when discharged by the Congested Districts Board. Does that apply too with regard to fisheries? You are in the peculiar position of being able to see both sides of the picture in connection with the Congested Districts Board and the new Department. In your opinion, if the fisheries which are worked by the Congested Districts Board were handed over to the new Department, would it make the smallest difference so far as the further development is concerned in the congested districts areas?—I think, as I have said, that the treatment of this £10,000 for fishery business by the Department is very similar to the way in which the funds of the Congested Districts Board are dealt with by the Board, so that I cannot say there would be any very great difficulty excepting that a different set of men might deal with it.

4997. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Don't you control both?—The right way of dealing with a special matter like fisheries is to put a man who understands his business in charge, and give him a free hand under proper supervision as regards expenditure. In the Congested Districts Board, the Board has a very long experience of fisheries. We have had great experience, and are quite capable of running the business on a large scale.

4998. Don't you deal with both? Really are not both in your hands, don't you control both of them?—I do in one way or another. I am the head of the fisheries branch of the Department, and I am a member of the Congested Districts Board.

4999. Are you not managing-director of the Congested Districts Board as regards fisheries?—I would not like to say that.

5000. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You act for both as regards inspection?—I do.

5001. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You are the adviser of the Congested Districts Board in the matter of fisheries?—Yes; I advise the Board.

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5002. Have you information of any instance where they have not acted upon your advice?—Well, I could not say—I have tried to do my best for the Congested Districts Board.

5003. The Congested Districts Board would be unequal to dealing with fisheries if you were not there?—I don't think so. There are as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it.

Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—But you have got to get them out.

5004. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—In regard to this £10,000, is there very much spent in the congested districts?—None of it is spent except on the protection work. The Department is responsible for the protection of the fishing grounds of the whole of Ireland from steam trawlers, and they are responsible for the expenditure on the fishery cruiser specially appointed for maintaining the law. Her special duty is to protect the whole, congested and non-congested. She might catch a steam-trawler in one or the other. The Department has the work of making bye-laws, rules and regulations for fisheries in non-congested districts and congested districts. The loans were issued for all Ireland by the Fishery Board; now the Department gives loans, and the Congested Districts Board gives loans. The loan fund was divided in 1882.

5005. With regard to dealing with business, you go down to encourage the progress of industry in that wide area coloured blue on the map, as a member of the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, I go as a member of that Board.

5006. You do your business and are regarded as a member of the Board?—Yes, provided it is not a matter connected with salmon fisheries.

5007. That is not inland fisheries?—Yes.

5008. What you do apply to sea fisheries?—Yes. I apply myself to sea fisheries.

5009. When you go down do you meet with the smallest difference if your duty takes you there as a Government official?—I am quite sure there is nothing of the kind.

5010. You find no difference whether you are acting as a member of the Congested Districts Board or as a Government official in the attitude of the people?—I have not seen the slightest difference. Most people think I am a paid official in both cases.

5011. You never found it different?—No.

5012. Do you think for a person in your position on official business it is a material advantage to gain the sympathy of the people? Do you think there is no feeling against a Government official?—I don't think so.

5013. You don't?—No.

5014. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Do you, as an administrator, think there would be an advantage, from the point of view of administration, if you had to deal without any distinction with fisheries in non-congested and in congested districts without having to report to two masters?—I will tell you honestly what I think. One Board or the other could do the whole business.

5015. Would it be an advantage that one or the other should do the whole business?—It would be, of course, but I am in this difficulty. All this turns on the possibility of the Congested Districts Board ceasing to exist as a Board. I don't like to face that, with my experience of the Congested Districts Board. I am very well satisfied with the ship I have been sailing in for fourteen years, and I don't want to leave her, and I know Dr. O'Donnell there is a member of this Commission and a member of the Congested Districts Board. I would be very sorry, indeed, to think of parting company with one who takes such an intense interest in the fishing, and has done so as long as he has been a member of the Board. If it was not for considerations of that sort, I would say undoubtedly, one Board or the other.

5016. These are really personal considerations?—I am bound to say that, because it may make my statement seem quite wrong if I said anything that did not take these things into consideration. I have been working with this set of men, and have been ever since I took it up, and I don't want to see a change which would part us. At the same time, of course, I see that one Department could do the whole of the work.

5017. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Without any reference to persons, is not the point one of expediency,

whether the present constitution of the Congested Districts Board renders any service to the fisheries?—I think the continuance of the Board would be of service to the fisheries.

5018. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Well, you have both the service to the fisheries and the personal considerations?—I take them both. Because if we take Donagel, here is Dr. O'Donnell, who from the great interest he has taken in the Donagel fishery and all the fisheries, has assisted the Board immensely in the development of these fisheries.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That is very kind of you, Mr. Green. Let me say that the Congested Districts Board has always felt exceedingly fortunate in the chief inspector of the fisheries.

5019. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I only want to bring out whether if you could from your mind eliminate the personal element of Dr. O'Donnell's benevolent activity in that direction, then would you have the same difficulty in answering the question?—I don't think I would.

5020. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—There might be someone else, might there not?—These might be someone else, quite so.

5021. Do you think at present, while ideas of unification present themselves as almost perfection to us all, do you think there is any overlapping in the good work done by the Congested Districts Board and the Department of Agriculture?—

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is that question general or with reference to fishing?

5022. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are we not talking about fishing?—Yes; I said yesterday I would talk about fishing only.

5023. The two departments are at work—the Congested Districts Board and the Department of Agriculture—in their actual operations in three any overlapping; have all the officers quite enough to do in each department?—Our officers have plenty to do in each department; there is no doubt about that. If we had the whole of the Congested Districts Board work thrown upon the Department of Agriculture, the Department would want more assistance to do it, and whether there is any overlapping of staff or not, or whether there is any superabundance of staff for working these things, is a question rather for Mr. Mitchell and our staff clerk in the office to settle; I am not certain how far that may exist; because, as I understand, the fishery loans are worked in the Congested Districts Board by an officer, who must be there; that officer must be there, because he does some other work as well.

5024. Then, I suppose, you have not found your engagement with the Department to interfere in any way with your work as a member of the Congested Districts Board?—In the amount of time I can give to it absolutely it does. When I began work for the Congested Districts Board I had very much less to do as an Inspector of Fisheries than I have since the Department was created, it goes without saying that when funds have been provided for the fisheries already under the Department that the amount of correspondence and everything else has increased immensely. When we had no funds to spend we were not very often written to; our funds have increased to an enormous extent since we have funds to dispose of.

5025. So the work has increased?—It has increased beyond all comparison. We are two men to carry out the judicial work formerly done by three, and in addition we have to maintain steamers, a dredger; we have to look after the building of piers and slips, and we have a whole host of business put upon us that never existed in the days of the Inspectors of Fisheries. Before the Department was created I had more time to devote to the Congested Districts Board, and my connection with it was quite different in those days from what it is now.

5026. But your work on the Congested Districts Board goes on harmoniously with your work for the Department?—Yes, absolutely.

5027. I am particular about that £10,000; I want to ask you a question which is quite clear to you about the £10,000. The question is this: that £10,000 may be expended independently of the Boards that assist the Department?—That £10,000 the Department can expend on sea fisheries.

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Rev. William
Sproulewood
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5028. It may be expended independently of the Boards that assist the Department, is not that so?—That is so.

5029. If there were any much higher appointment than the one you now occupy, and you were promoted to such appointment, as I should earnestly desire, in case the Irish Fisheries could spare you, someone else would take your place and would practically control the expenditure of that £10,000?—Of course the £10,000 is controlled by us and the heads of the Department, that is to say the Secretary and the Vice-President, and all is checked most carefully—in fact I have no power to expend money without sanction.

5030. It is quite understood; in other words, if the Department had not the advantage of your services, the Department, with some other chief officers, would expend that £10,000 independently of the Boards?—That is so.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I only want that to be noted.

5031. Mr. BRYCE.—May I ask another question, which is a corollary to some extent of the question his Lordship has asked you: Suppose, owing to the transfer of the fishery business of the Congested Districts Board to the Department of Agriculture, the sum of money put at the disposal of the Department was larger, but, owing to the fact that the sum of money being larger the conditions were altered under which the Department was allowed to work, do you think the Department would carry on the business as well as it carries on the business under the £10,000, which is at present allowed; that is to say, if the amount of money given were to have attached to it any condition of further control, such as perhaps hampers the Department in regard to other matters, you would not feel so sure the Department would do the business as well as it does it at present?—I might ask you another question?—If you mean it would be desirable that the officials handling that money should be added to in some way or other—

5032. No, what I mean is this:—At present it may be that the comparative freedom of the Department in dealing with the £10,000 is owing to the fact that the sum is small, but if the sum were made much larger—?—The responsibility would be much greater.

5033. And you are not at all sure that the conditions under which the Department would work then would be as good as those under which the work is done at present partly by the Department and partly by the Congested Districts Board?—I think some alteration might be desirable in the authority which would have the spending of a larger sum, but the additions to that authority should be persons who had special knowledge of fisheries, and the thing I am opposed to is managing a special thing like fisheries by persons who do not know anything about fisheries; that is the only thing I look upon as important. The interference of Boards with expenditure on any special subject like fisheries would introduce a danger of having our schemes—they may be the best we can think of—stepped by some persons who did not know anything about them.

5034. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It is all a question of personnel?—Yes. And Mr. Bryce was asking even with the best personnel if you had restrictions would the money be so well spent as it is now by the Congested Districts Board?—

5035. Mr. BRYCE.—Yes, and by the Department as it now is, by the two of them separately. In fact at present both the Board and the Department work freely, but may it not be that the Department is at present free because the sum it handles is inconsiderable, while if the amount were very much increased, and the freedom taken away, might not the work be done in a less satisfactory manner?—I think it might; of course, I quite see we are not going to be entrusted with (and I would not like to take) the responsibility of spending any very large sum. There are two sides to the question—first of all whether we would be satisfied to take the responsibility of spending it, and, secondly, whether the Government would at all wish to put such a responsibility on anybody; I think it is quite proper that the Government should not put such a responsibility, and, therefore, I say there will of necessity be a difficulty in having the freedom we now have under the two Boards when it comes to endowing one Board or other with those larger sums.

5036. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Assuming that the conditions governing the larger expenditure were reasonable, as we have every reason to hope they would be, that would not hamper you; if the conditions were foolish, of course, that would hamper you?—That is so.

5037. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—My own experience is entirely contrary to what you have been saying. My own experience is that when you have a good department, with a sum of money to be spent, you make out estimates and a yearly budget. When the estimates have been submitted and sanctioned, the front the authority you give to the responsible men at the head of the matter; my experience is that authority and freedom given in that way always produce efficient work?—Greater enthusiasm.

5038. The CHAIRMAN.—That is not the method usually adopted by the new Department in the branches?—In its branches, other than sea fisheries, the Department is not free at all. For inland fisheries, every small scheme, even if only of £10 value, has to be signed by the Board.

5039. And Mr. Bryce's point, I think was that—if you give the new Department a larger sum of money for fisheries, you may bring about that kind of machinery for fisheries which exists now in regard to other things?—Yes; and what I said as to that was I think it would be better to leave things as they are than to get into such a pass as that.

5040. Before we absolutely leave this point—you said just now there must be some limit of responsibility, if the sum to be expended were very large?—Yes, there should be.

5041. That applies also to the Congested Districts Board, does it not?—It does.

5042. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—To put the matter briefly, is not this the state of facts—the expenditure on fisheries by the Department is sanctioned by the Vice-President and the Secretary and yourself; the expenditure on fisheries by the Congested Districts Board is sanctioned by that Board?—By the Board.

5043. That is how the matter stands?—That is how the matter stands.

5044. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You said the one Department could do the work done by the two now?—Yes, if it is equipped. We have judicial functions under the Department.

5045. Would there be any saving in the cost of administration by amalgamation?—I am informed there would not be as much saving as would appear on the surface; that is, provided the Congested Districts Board still went on doing other things.

5046. I am only talking of the fisheries?—I am informed by the officials from the Congested Districts Board that if the fishery were lopped off now it would curtail the expenditure in various ways very little.

5047. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—Just one question I wish to ask you in connection with the fishery, and all that appertains to it, if you can give me an opinion. Do you think any more local sympathy is created, and an effort to assist in carrying out the policy of the Board is produced, by reason of its being a Board composed of all parties rather than a staff Government Department acting under the rules?—I think there is.

5048. Do you think the sympathy of the localities where the operations have to be carried on is better secured by the fact that their co-operation and assistance are invited by a Board composed of men of all parties rather than if it was simply a request of a Government Department to the local people that they want such and such a thing done?—I think it is. I think the present state of the Board is calculated to produce that sort of sympathy in the districts where it works.

5049. Do you or do you not think, taking into consideration that all departments must be essentially Government—do you or do you not take into consideration that the administration of the work which we are talking about is carried on outside altogether of the turmoil of political considerations?—It is, certainly.

5050. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You don't find that turmoil affects your work under the Department in the fisheries, do you?—No, I don't think it does.

5051. Do you know of any reason why it would affect the congested districts coast more than the coast

which you administer?—No, I do not think so. But I think this—that if we had a representative Board of Fisheries, and things of that sort, they would hamper us very much indeed in doing our business, because political questions would come in.

5032. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Arising out of that question put by Sir Francis, may I ask whether there might not be a serious dislocation if the Vice-President of the Department appointed by one Government was superseded when a new Government came in?—There might be.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Permanent officials are not superseded on a change of Government.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—If he ceases to hold office, and someone else took his place, what is that?

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I suppose it would be elected the same as any other department.

5033. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The question is this. It arises out of Sir John's question, as to whether the consideration that the Congested Districts Board represents all parties does not and in its work. It has also been asked whether the Department is not almost free from any political taint. Then I put the question whether there might not be some dislocation in the administration of the Department on a change of Government, if the Vice-President went out of the Department and a new Vice-President was appointed by the succeeding Government?—Of course if that sort of thing did take place, you would get a faction in the country that would be entirely opposed to the man who was in authority. That would be distinctly disastrous to the working of the Department.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—If that be so it would seem that in the continuous and uniform policy the Congested Districts Board has the advantage.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is not it a more matter of adjustment? The future is not likely to be exactly a counterpart of the past.

5034. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is not it a fact that we don't hold the adjustment of the future in our pockets?—Yes; if we could tell where the hearings would be next year it would be a good thing.

5035. The CHAIRMAN.—I don't think there is any thing else on page 1 of your memorandum that we need deal with. You have practically told us all that you referred to there already.—That is so.

5036. On page 2 you sketched the conditions of the Western sea fisheries in 1890, and that you have already told us of?—Yes.

5037. Sir JOHN COLSON.—You told us about the lobster industry and about the crabs; have you got anything to say on the question of other shell fish—such as mussels, periwinkles, oysters, and other small industries?—I should say, in speaking of crabs, I did not say that there were no crabs to be got on the west coast. There is not much trade in despatching them; they won't bear the long journey. The cutters that come round and call for the lobsters don't take crabs, the despatch is practically confined to the north coast and the east coast and some places on the south coast; they don't live as well as lobsters.

5038. Are the vessels coming round for lobsters specially fitted for the fish?—Yes.

5039. They don't take the crabs?—The crabs are not taken. The smaller fisheries have developed, but are capable of further development. They have developed considerably in one particular district—in Killarney district. That is in consequence of railway facilities having been provided. And in one year the mussels that were sent away from Killarney paid over £1,000 freight to the railway companies. That is all in Carlingford Harbour.

5040. Do you attribute the special development in that special place to facilities of communication or to some natural cause with regard to the beds suitable for developing the mussels?—The beds have been there from time immemorial, but the facilities for sending the mussels on to the English market were not favourable until the railway was made—that is, the railway that connects Killarney and Valentia.

5041. The mussels in the congested districts are not specially superior to the mussels elsewhere on the west coast?—There are quite as good mussels in other parts of the west coast where facilities don't exist for sending them away.

5042. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have the oysters never recovered from the scare?—The oysters on the west coast of Ireland are perfectly pure and perfectly good oysters the scare need never have affected them, but of course the scare did depress the whole oyster fishery, whether they were good or bad.

5043. Is there no trade at present in oysters?—There is a trade, but the effect of the railway development on oysters was to cause the beds to be worked out; public beds in the West of Ireland are nearly all in the condition of being worked out. The Department has now taken up the business, and is trying to re-stock some of these public beds. One public bed in Tralee Bay is still in fair condition; it is being looked after by the Department with the assistance of a bailiff specially told off. The effect of putting on a bailiff and seeing that the law is enforced has raised the price of oysters in Tralee from 3s. 6d. to 6s., and the people who were quite opposed to being watched at the beginning are quite satisfied with the work of the bailiff now.

5044. It was not only the scare that depressed the trade?—No; they were worked out when the facilities for transport came into existence.

5045. Sir JOHN COLSON.—The oyster culture, even if successful, cannot be regarded in its nature as securing very large employment for the people?—No, not very large.

5046. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Are you aware that complaints are being made as to the failure of the railway companies to deliver oysters with as much punctuality as might be the case?—It has not come to my notice that there has been this complaint about oysters; there have been complaints of course at various times about the non-delivery of fish and the delay of fish in transit, but the fishery trade in general cannot complain too much of the railways in the West of Ireland, because in the mackerel fishing and herring fishing the fish are carried at very fair rates from the West of Ireland to the English markets.

5047. You say they cannot complain too much?—They cannot complain very much of the freights that are charged.

5048. But there have been complaints of want of punctuality?—There have been accidents occasionally, fish have been delayed on the road and got bad, but no very serious complaint has come to us about oysters on that score.

5049. If a complaint comes to you have you any means of approaching or bringing any sort of influence to bear on the railway companies?—The Department has power to bring the thing under the notice of the railway companies. I am not sure to what extent it has been acted upon; they do look after the transit of cattle.

5050. The CHAIRMAN.—Then you describe what took place in the Aran Islands when you started the fisheries there. The only question on that I should like to ask you is this: you described how you obtained a bulk for the ice and how you contracted with a gentleman from Cork to work the sale; are any of those kinds of arrangements made now?—They are not, because we have not any new station going now when this special treatment is necessary. At Aran, for instance, when we began there, we could not expect merchants to come and buy the fish in a place where they had never been caught, and we had to take the risk, and we did take the risk. We bought a cargo of ice, and we made an arrangement; and Mr. SHERRIN, who has been for a great number of years our Superintendent in that part of Galway, was then the manager at Aran. The plan was, we got the ice from Norway; a bulk was anchored in Killybeg Bay in which the ice was stored, this was part of our bargain with the buyer that came there to send off the fish; afterwards we became the buyers of fish ourselves and sent it off. In the year 1893 the Board was doing it. There was a great quantity of fish, and we were nearly running short of ice, which would have been a very serious matter. Fortunately the ice held out. At Cleggan, which was the next place, we opened the mackerel fishing; we provided and worked it exactly the same way when we began, but after one year it was taken out of our hands by the trade, and we have not found it necessary to go back there ever since; but for the last few years we provide ice at Cleggan for all comers. We sell ice to the buyers, and there are eight or nine buyers buying fish

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Rev. William
Spence
Glen.

there in the spring. That is the only help we give them.

5071. In the Aran Islands you do nothing?—In the Aran Islands we are now doing nothing of that kind. The Aran Islanders were sailors; they very quickly took up the fish business themselves.

5072. Practically the Board has withdrawn altogether from the Aran Fishery?—From dealing with it, except in the way of providing fishing boats and gear; and we tried to find buyers to go there for them, and that sort of thing, at different times.

5073. But the distribution of fish is now purely on commercial lines?—It is now purely on commercial lines.

5074. In regard to cod and ling, that is also the case there, too?—That is the case in the Aran Islands. They sell the cod and ling now under contract to a buyer and he gets it away.

5075. Have they been able to carry on as easily by themselves as can be reasonably expected?—I think if the fishing had kept up in all the years as it was in the beginning they would undoubtedly be in as good a position, working now on their own lines, as they were working when we were buying, but there have been several bad years, and they have got very heavily into debt for the boats both in Connemara and in Aran. There are several boats that are now behind in paying the instalments that are payable every half year.

5076. Do you find in a place like Aran which has now been established for some time that there is any competition for the buying of the fish, or does it all remain in the hands of one man or one firm?—There is not sufficient competition at Aran, and the best chance the Aran Islanders have is at the beginning or before the season opens to contract with some solvent buyer to fix a price at which to take the mackerel, and for some years that worked very well. An English buyer bought the fish by contract at a fixed price. He had to take his chance of the market going against him and the fishermen had to take their chance of the market going against them. They might do better than the engaged price or they might do worse, but it generally turned out that they were better off by selling under these engaged prices. These are the two systems of working the thing all along the coast. Long ago the engaged prices were general, and then the open market took the place of the engaged price.

5077. In the early days in Donegal, was it not usual, with regard to the herrings, to buy them at a certain price in order to keep up the demand?—When we let our curing stations we reserved to ourselves the right to cut in if we thought merchants were not paying proper prices for the fish.

5078. Could not something of that kind be done in Aran?—At the time we were managing it we had to deduct a certain amount for the cost of working, the cost of boats, of ice, and the cost of labour, and when we had sent the fish across the sale sometimes did not turn out well. The fishermen were not satisfied, and the Board did not find they were coming out of it a bit too well either. It was abandoned particularly for the reason that the fishermen were not satisfied. We did not always get good prices. One reason for it is that, in placing the fish on the English market we have to pay the salesman a percentage for handling them. When an English salesman comes across it is quite obvious that if he is a salesman in an important English market he can afford to pay more than a person who has got to pay a commission on the sales—he is both a buyer on the coast and a seller in the English market.

5079. Then it amounts to this, that the Board cannot really compete with the private seller in bidding for fish?—They cannot, if he is a man in that position.

5080. Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.—Would the establishment of better transit facilities or better communications with Aran afford a better opportunity to fishermen to get satisfactory prices?—The commercial aspect is three times a week permanently, and by arrangement every day. During the spring mackerel fishing the steamer runs every day when there is fish.

5081. Would it be possible for the fishermen to send the fish to Galway for market by means of that steamer?—They did send it, and last year there was often no buyer there.

5082. In Aran now do the fishermen contract?—A few of them did, but the bulk of them this year did not contract, they took their chance in the open market. Their fish went by that steamer the same as everybody else—the steamer was available—freight arose because the arrangement originally made was that whoever ordered a special trip of the steamer had to pay 25—I think that is the figure—as a guarantee for that extra trip, and when the buyer who was there asked for the special trip he did not think it fair that the steamer should take other people's fish running in competition with his, and there was some language on that subject, but I think it settled itself.

5083. Is the steamer a satisfactory steamer?—The steamer, of course, might be much better, with much better accommodation on board. She is limited in draught of water to the Galway tidal harbour, and the object of having her shallow is that she should get in as soon as possible on the tide. It is a great drawback to the whole business that Galway is a tidal harbour.

5084. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you see any way in which competition in Aran could be stimulated?—If I was to compare Cleggan and Aran I would probably be able to lead to a clearer view of the thing. Cleggan was started by the Board; the Board began by buying fish in Cleggan and afterwards the Board left Cleggan to the trade. In Cleggan there were nine buyers in competition; last year the Norwegians came and had against the local buyers and put up the prices. The danger, of course, is where there is a small number of buyers, they may agree among themselves as to the price to put on and to competition, and the advantage of the Norwegians there last year was that the Norwegians did not combine with these other people, and they did put up the price two shillings a hundred for the mackerel. The plan we have adopted in Cleggan is to have a bulk anchored with ice. We sell that ice to all comers. That induces a number of buyers to come there, and small men can buy, if the quantity of ice is considerable, without laying in a big store of it at the beginning, that facilitates Cleggan. We have been asked to do the same thing at Aran, and I should like to do it, but the conditions under which the fish are delivered from Aran are quite different from Cleggan in this way, that the delivery from Cleggan is all by land on carts to the railway at Clifden, and sometimes there are as many as 100 carts going away together from Cleggan pier with perhaps 1,000 boxes of mackerel or something like that, and the fish is packed on the quay; all the buyers on the land have their own locations, where they buy and pack fish, and the ice is brought in from the bulk as required and given to them. In Aran the delivery is direct from the bulk. When a contract price was in force, the boats used to come in alongside the bulk and the steamer for Galway would come and take the fish boxes direct off the bulk and then run to Galway. There is no room for seven or eight buyers on a bulk, because if you had two competing buyers on a bulk you would have their men fighting, and there would be bloodshed probably. The difficulty there is, if competing buyers are to come they would all want to have a bulk each on which to pack, same as it is done in Valencia, and the bulk of the fishing at Aran is not sufficient to induce a number of men to come there with a bulk of ice each.

5085. Why should not the ice be ashore instead of on a bulk?—Because there is no place ashore suitable at Aran. It is a tidal pier to begin with, and if they packed ashore there the fishing boats might have to wait for tide, and the steamer might not be able to come in when the fish were packed to take it away from the pier.

5086. Is not that a question merely of lengthening the pier?—It is a question of a big lengthening of the pier. If there was a very big pier at Aran, so that all the packing could be done on the pier, then the matter would be the same as at Cleggan.

5087. What length of extension would you want?—In Cleggan the fish come in and go away by land.

5088. What sort of an extension of the pier would you require at Aran to make it possible for the steamer to come alongside the pier in all conditions of the tide?—There is not more than about three feet at low water spring tides at the pier head now.

5089. How far would you have to take out the pier?—You would have to take it out to where there would

be at least eight feet of water, and the bay there is very flat. You would have to make a pier certainly twice the size of the present one.

5090. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would iron-wood last in that water, or do you require a solid structure?—A jetty might last there, but a lighter comes in sometimes and the floor of the jetty would have to be so high that it would be very inconvenient, because it must be over the highest waves that could touch it.

5091. The CHAIRMAN.—Anyhow, we understand the reason that Aran is handicapped by the want of buyers is because, owing to the shallowness of the water, the packing has to be done on board the bulk, and therefore a sufficient number of buyers cannot come there to carry on the operations?—They cannot come there.

5092. But if by any means the packing could be done ashore, then buyers would go to Aran as they go to Cleggan, is that your opinion?—They might. I am not quite sure of it. There are several other difficulties.

5093. Mr. KAVANAGH.—It would always be more inconvenient on an island than inland, would not it be?—Nothing could be more convenient than what one buyer was buying all the fish, because the delivery by steamer was over so much better than delivery by cart, as it is at Cleggan, and the result was that the Aran fish used to fetch a shilling a box more than the Cleggan fish, on account of the difficulty about which the Cleggan fish got in the cart while being brought to the railway at Chiffen.

5094. Mr. BAYNE.—Could you not get over the difficulty by having more than one bulk?—It could be got over if you knew what number of buyers were likely to come there.

5095. The expense of a bulk is not great?—Not very great.

5096. Sir FRANCIS MORRIS.—What sum would it cost?—A bulk may cost £300.

5097. Mr. BAYNE.—It would be much cheaper to duplicate a bulk than to build a pier?—Yes.

5098. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Was the pier built recently?—The pier was built a very long time ago, in the thirties. Then it was extended recently, about four or five years ago.

5099. Was it sufficient for the size of the boats that were in use at the time it was built?—It was quite sufficient for the boats used at the time it was built.

5100. But now it is perfectly evident that a pier built in such shallow water as that is of very little use?—It is no use for the despatch of fresh fish, because if the fish were brought in there and packed, the steamer might not be able to come in, and she has to run for the tide in Galway.

5101. In fact it is an example of the danger I was already pointing out to you?—Yes, because it is quite impossible to work in that way. It does very well for the autumn mackerel curing, but it does not do for the fresh fish trade.

5102. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would you need to have a good man under you always at Aran to do that fishery justice: a good deal at Aran, but operating towards the Connemara coast?—We want to have more help. Since Mr. Shinnon left as we are weak, but the Board has not actually taken steps to supply his place as yet. When we know where we are and what the Commission reports, we will be in a better position to say what should be done in respect of employing more help.

5103. You think more organisation and local supervision would be desirable there?—Yes. We have a very good Aran man at the present moment looking after the Aran things: an extremely good man, but he cannot go far away from Aran, and, undoubtedly, we want more help in that direction, and the Board are quite prepared to employ such assistance as may be necessary, but at the present moment, under the retirement of Mr. Shinnon, we have undoubtedly been in a weak position on the Connemara coast.

5104. Mr. Dwyer goes over the whole coast?—He supervises; but when one man has to go all about the coast he cannot see how things are going on by making trips. He cannot do as much as a man always near the spot. Mr. Shinnon was living in the place fifteen years. He knew all the men personally, and knew all their conditions, and what they were at,

and that gave him a grip that it would take another man some time to get.

5105. Mr. BAYNE.—Could you not get these buyers and get more competition at Aran by promising to supply a bulk if they would agree to go there?—The fishing is small to divide between a number of buyers.

5106. The CHAIRMAN.—The fishing is smaller than at Cleggan?—It has been smaller for a couple of years past owing to the opening of Roundstone as a station, and the mackerel fleet being thus divided. The fishing at Cleggan is larger at present.

5107. Is the fishing at Cleggan so much larger that there is room for eight or nine buyers, whereas at Aran there is only room for one?—Some of these buyers don't buy very much, and there is one great advantage in working Cleggan, that a number of local men are able to take part in it and the money which these local people make as buyers is distributed in the country.

5108. Would you go on to where you tell us of some instructions?—That is a question from a report written by Sir Horace Plunkett and myself in 1894.*

5109. In the first paragraph of that Appendix you show that some instruction used to be given to boys in these boats which Miss Mossfield and Miss Sherrett provided: is anything of the kind done now?—We spend thousands of pounds on instruction.

5110. To boys?—They are youths.

5111. You say that fishing cannot be taught to boys in schools is a fact proved by experiments in other countries: were the crews of these instruction boats to which you are referring schoolboys?—No. They were young men of from anything from seventeen years upwards, just the young men who would have gone with school. We had the greatest possible difficulty in training some of these crews, because in some districts we have to teach men to be sailors as well as fishermen. In other places we have only to teach them to be fishermen—men like the Aran islanders or the Connemara men, accustomed to sail hookers. Some of the Connemara men are good sailors, and then you have only to teach them the handling of the nets, but in many of these cases we had to take young chaps on board who had never been on a sailing boat before in their lives, and they had to be taught not only to fish but to sail a boat; the first year of our work some of these chaps used to be crawling about on their faces and hands on the deck of the boat, afraid to stand up on the deck lest they should fall overboard, and it is a very difficult work to train young chaps of that class into being fishermen.

5112. But you still continue that kind of work?—That kind of work still goes on under instruction.

5113. Is it still going on at these particular places that are alluded to here?—The Aran islanders want very little instruction. They got very little. They quickly took to it.

5114. How about Carna?—We have had instructors in Carna up to the present.

5115. Are there still instructors there?—Yes, on some of the boats.

5116. Are they doing any good?—They are. These boats did better than any of the other County Galway boats during the last year.

5117. Do you still continue instruction in net mending?—In nearly all the places now where we have started fishings they know how to mend nets, but we have a couple of itinerant instructors going about for a few months in a district wherever it is necessary.

5118. Do you find that fishery itinerant instructors are successful?—It takes a very short time to train a number of boys into the way of mending nets. Then there is no use in keeping the instructor there longer, and he goes on somewhere else.

5119. Sir JOHN COOPER.—With regard to these instructors on the boats, how are they distributed?—When a boat is started with a crew of six hands, then an instructor is put on board and paid by the Board. He is a good fisherman, either a Scotchman, an Ardlow man, or from Cork or some of these places where they are in the habit of working big boats. He goes on board and is a kind of skipper on board. In the Donegal shore boats we have a number of instructors training these crews, and the cost of instruction is deducted from their earnings, a certain percentage

* See p. 229.

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Rev. William
Spencer
Grove.

goes to the cost of instruction, so that the instruction is largely paid for by the earnings of the boat.

5121. Are the young men under instruction paid?—No; they get their share of the fish.

5122. But they get no wages?—No wages.

5123. The instructor gets wages?—Yes, and he gets no share of the fish.

5124. Then the crew, the effective crew of the ship, do they work on the share system altogether?—They work on the share system, and there is a sinking fund for the repayment of the boat. There is a charge for instruction, the boat is insured, and the insurance is paid, and all these things are deducted before the dividend takes place among the men.

5125. And the cost of instruction is deducted from the amount of money made before the distribution of the shares to the men?—It is. It is all done in the office. All the money comes up to the office, the money for the fish sold, and the accounts are all kept in the office and all goes right in that way.

5126. Mr. BAYCE.—But it is not entirely deducted. There is a debit to the instruction account, is there not? Here is an item on page twenty-three of the Report of this year, and the whole cost of the instruction provided last year for sixty-seven share boats and five loan boats is £3,500, of which £1,255 was repaid out of the earnings of the boats, so it left £2,245 the debit of that year?—In Appendix B of the printed report you have the whole balance sheet of every one of these boats, the amounts they earned, the expenditure on the boat, the crew's earnings, the sinking fund, the cost of instruction, the management expenses, and then the total at pages 70 to 74. That is on the Donegal system of giving the boats. We adopt a different system in Conamara. We have two systems of giving out boats. The loan system is a very old one, dating back for fifty years. That has been going on very successfully. The boats are given out on ordinary loans, and this does not require much inspection or management.

5127. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you insure the boat?—We insure the boats now under an insurance scheme between the Department and the Congested Districts Board, and as regards the boats now issued a deduction is made for insurance, but as to other boats it is a voluntary matter if they wish to insure.

5128. Is there any security besides the boat, but we don't insure the full price of the boat.

5129. Mr. BAYCE.—Do you find you cannot get an insurance of the whole of the boat done?—We cannot get it done.

5130. When you say if they wish to insure, do you mean if they wish to insure with you?—Yes.

5131. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is there no insurance company in Ireland that will insure fishing boats?—They won't insure these boats on the west coast of Ireland.

5132. Will they insure a decked boat?—We have never found them willing. The decked boats insured in Ireland are generally insured in clubs, and the headquarters of these are in England. In a few cases Irish boats are insured in English clubs, and the payments they have to make arise when loss takes place in the club.

5133. You are aware that in Scotland several fishery boats are insured?—In Scotland they have these clubs up there.

5134. They have regular insurance societies?—Some of them are insured in clubs. I know several.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is there a special society for insuring these boats?

5135. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—A special society, but of course there may not be a readiness on the part of any company to insure an open boat, that is, a boat without a deck. There is a greater risk?—A greater risk. We don't insure for the full amount. We insure for a certain proportion of the value, and the boat is valued. The plan we have is to get the boat valued from time to time, so that a man can recover three-fourths of the value of the boat at the time, but not of a brand-new boat.

5136. Mr. BAYCE.—Are both these types of large boats you have put out, the Sulo and the Nobby class, completely decked or partially decked?—They have a very large hatch, which is generally open, but they can cover it in.

5137. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is the explanation of this? take, for instance, the "Cold Seeker"?—It is referred to as "sald under loan"?—She began as a share boat, given out under the share system,

and then the share system was stopped in her case and she was sold to somebody who wanted to buy a boat under a fishing loan. Then the fishing loan system is a system that requires personal security. Where a man applies for a boat under the loan system he sends up the names of two solvent trustees, and the boat is then issued. If she is a large boat there is a mortgage on the boat as well. The success of that system has been very remarkable, because you see that during the fifty years it has been going on the general loss on the loans that were granted up to the time of the beginning of the Congested Districts Board was not more than one per cent. All the bad debts put together did not amount to one per cent.

5138. The boats sold under loan remain in the fishing trade?—Yes.

5139. The CHAIRMAN.—Do you ask them to pay a sum down when you send the boat or do they pay by instalments afterwards?—They sometimes pay a sum down when they are buying the boat themselves. They only borrow for the balance which they require. Then there is a certain number of years fixed by us for the repayment of the price, seven years for a large loan. The interest, 2½ per cent., and the purchase money, are in such a case divided into fourteen equal instalments. Each of these instalments represents the repayment and interest, and they are calculated so as to make equal sums payable twice a year, and when the last of these repayments is made the boat is clear. The one advantage is that the boat becomes the property of the fisherman from the first. His interest is in its maintenance, and as it is his own he can do what he likes with it. The share system, however, facilitates a number of men who could not get boats under the loan system, and where the fishing is good the price of the boats is paid off very quickly.

5140. Is your Memorandum you say "Looking back on days when I began my survey in 1890 and the position of the Board now we may say that we now know fully what we did not know then, the actual value and possibilities of the west coast fisheries." Can you tell us shortly what the value and possibilities of the west coast fisheries are?—Having full regard to the fluctuations which take place, and discounting those fluctuations, we know what fisheries are possible, we know what fisheries exist, and we pretty well know the value of them.

5141. Do you know the extent to which they can be developed?—I think we do, but, as I said at the latter part of this paragraph, "the problem now only partly solved is how can the coast population be placed in a position to avail themselves of these fisheries?" The question is almost wholly a human one." So it is really a question of the people we have to deal with.

5142. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But you hold that the fisheries—supposing that the human problem were solved—could be developed into a paying industry?—They could be developed into a paying industry under certain conditions. You must take into consideration the man you are dealing with, and his means of subsistence from other sources. It depends altogether on whether you are dealing with a man who has a farm and wants to stop at home or with a man who has not a farm and is ready to make fishing his trade and go away. When you ask me can we make fishing a paying trade I must look at it from those two different points of view, whether the man is or is not prepared to leave his farm.

5143. The CHAIRMAN.—Is it not probable that there are both classes of fishermen on that coast? Is not it possible you might have fishing carried on as it is now by people who are attached to the land fishing near shore, and at the same time that the sons of those men might be trained to go farther to sea in larger vessels?—I think that is taking place, and I have some hopes we are doing something in that direction. In Achill this season three crews went away to Donegal to fish, and I think some more from Conamara have started. These were boats which they have bought from the Board. They are not fitted out with herring nets and they have gone up to Donegal. The difficulty we had when we began with these Achill men was they were all migratory labourers. When we began with the Blackhead fishing we put Achill men into some of the boats. These men had always been in the habit of migrating. The difficulty we had was that,

* See p. 210.

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when the fishing became a bit slack they wanted to go off to England and leave the boats. When we were getting these crews together the whole thing these men had to decide was: "Is it more profitable for me now to go to where I have been in the habit of going, over to Lancashire or Cheshire, or somewhere else, as a labourer, or take my chance at the mackerel fishing?" and they took their chance, and some of them have stuck to it. Some of them have given up migrating. They are working at fishing at the time when otherwise they would have been in England. These three crews I am speaking of now are crews of men who are of that class. These men, who have knocked about the world, and have had this migratory spirit engrained in them, are men that I think, under suitable conditions, are very likely to turn out to be good fishermen.

5144. How are those men who have stuck to fishing getting on in comparison with their friends who still go as migratory labourers?—They always say if they could get the fish they would far rather stay at home and work than go to England and be away from their friends. They like it better. The amount they might bring back if they went over as labourers at the end of the year if it was a good year might be £20. They ought to be able in a good season's fishing to divide £20 per man in a boat, and then, of course, if they go to other fishings they will bring in more money.

5145. When you say they ought to make £20, do you mean they ought to under present conditions or they ought to when the fishing is more developed?—They have done it.

5146. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—But not on an average!—Not on an average. I could tell from the accounts in the office how much the men have divided exactly from each such boat in the mackerel fishing at Cleggan and Blackhead.

5147. The CHAIRMAN.—Could you tell us that with regard to the three boats at Aghill?—I think I could, but the earnings of lean boats do not as a rule come through the office.

The CHAIRMAN.—I would be very glad if you could do so.

5148. Sir JOHN COLMAN.—Do you find the men accustomed to go to England more enterprising and more intelligent than the men who do not; does it tend to make them more enterprising; would you have more hope in dealing with people who have been accustomed to go to England of developing an industry than in dealing with those who don't?—I don't think it is a matter of intelligence. It is a matter of race. First of all, they have got the clothes to go. They are in the habit of sitting themselves out for going away from home. A number of other men we are in the habit of dealing with on the South Coast cannot have never been in the habit of going away from home. They have not the outfit. They don't like it. It is new for them.

5149. It is more enterprising to migrate?—Yes. On the other hand, on the Aran Islands you have a set of men who are very pushing and very enterprising, who have never migrated except to America. On the Donegal coast they were in the habit of migrating, migrating to England and to America. The result of the fishing up at Burrenport and in the Arranmore district, and all round there, is that emigration has practically ceased since the fishing was developed.

5150. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—When you say migrating to America, you mean emigrating to America?—I know men who migrate to America. I know one man in Aran, fishing, who was nine times in America. The year he began the fishery there he was with me on board a steamer for some time, and I was talking to him about his way of living. He had given up the idea of going to America, though he had his ticket in his hand, in order to go to the fishing. He said he got his ticket every year. He had a master near Boston, who had glass houses growing grapes, &c., and he was engaged every year to go over there and prune his vines, and he would have been at it that year only for the fishing. The thing is not very common, but undoubtedly in Arranmore, as I think, Dr. O'Donnell knows there was a great deal of migrating to America in that way, going to Pittsburgh, and all that country and coming back again, and going to and fro.

5151. Just as they go to England?—Just as they go to England.

5152. Let me ask you one question now about what you have been saying. You said that the average a man should make on the fishing should be £20?—Yes.

5153. And you said that £20 represented a good year's profit on his migrating to England for the summer?—Yes. They have often made more than that.

5154. I want to call your attention to this, that until you improve the fishing so as to enable him to make more by fishing than he now makes by going over to England, you have not improved his position?—You have not; but if he is able, out of the spring mackerel fishing, to divide £20 a man, as he has been able to do in some instances, then he has got the rest of the year for other fishing.

5155. Then the £20 only applies to the spring mackerel fishing?—Yes, or to some other one season of two or three months.

5156. Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.—I asked you earlier in the day whether you would be able in the course of your examination to take up that recommendation of the Commission of 1837, namely—the concentration of effort and of funds on those centres of the fishing industry which possess natural facilities and in the neighbourhood of which the population has an aptitude for fishing. Your examination has entered into a great deal of detail, and I am afraid now, we have such a short time, that the larger questions to which this refers cannot be dealt with sufficiently. Would you be able to make out a report or a paper stating very briefly what was the condition of the Irish fisheries from the year 1775 to the new century, and from 1800 to the date of this report in 1837. The condition of the fisheries then, and the causes which led to the falling off—as I understand they did fall off—might be stated. Then the recommendations made by the Commission which reported in 1837 might be mentioned, and how far have these recommendations been acted upon. Then the paper might pass from 1837 through the period of the Fisheries to the year 1870, when attention again seems to have become concentrated on the fisheries. The action taken in the interval, and its effect, might be given; and you might then bring the account to the present time. You then have four periods to contrast, to state what the characteristics of each period were; what public works were projected or finished or carried out to assist the fisheries in each; what has been the effect of these public works; how far any of them are still effective, and then what remains to be done?—I can do that.

5157. As I was not here, unfortunately, this morning, when some of these matters were referred to, there is another point to which I want to call attention. About the year 1902, I think, Mr. Wyndham made an examination with yourself of the fisheries of the coast from Astron round to Cape Clear, and came to certain conclusions as to the points on the coast at which piers ought to be constructed, and made certain provisions for the construction of these piers. It would be very interesting if we could learn how far effect has been given to those projects?—I can prepare something on that, too; but I was asked last evening by Lord Dudley to prepare a Memorandum on the transit facilities, which I have done, and I have it here to read, because the transit facilities are deeply connected with the fisheries; and when you come to speak of large works, as I stated in my printed Memorandum, I think the large works must always be considered with transit facilities, not with the fishing boats so much as with transit; and I say here, speaking of the expenditure made by the Congested Districts Board, there are places where a larger average expenditure is desirable, but the Board has generally found that such large works must be left to the chances of special Government grants. Speaking generally, costly works are needed only where special transit facilities exist, or where expenditure can create better transit facilities, or where fishing is so good that fleets of fishing craft may be expected to concentrate, and where facilities for transit may consequently be provided as a commercial enterprise. These are the conditions under which I consider large works would be justifiable.

5158. We would not restrict ourselves to places where transit facilities exist at present?—No; I say where expenditure can create better transit facilities or where the fishing is so good that fleets of fishing craft may be expected to concentrate, and produce the transit facilities as a commercial enterprise. Lord

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Rev. William
Spence
Giles.

Dudley asked me to prepare this Memorandum, which I did in a very great hurry, as to what I would now recommend on those lines in the way of transit facilities, and I have it here.

5150. The CHAIRMAN.—With regard to the point on which we were before we began to discuss the question of marine works, is it your opinion that for many years, or for some years to come, at any rate, that this muring of the population, at least this training of the population, to make them better fishermen and teach them seafaring ways, will have to be continued?—I think it will have to be continued, because they have been for generations getting out of it, and it will take generations to get into it again; and when you speak of it as training, I think the sewing the mure is the better. The muring is necessary, but it must not be done with too soft a hand or you will altogether miss the object you are aiming at. You must take up a pretty stiff line.

5150. Nursing was, perhaps, a bad word to use!—It is necessary for many years to come to go on with the work which we have been at, and if it is not gone on with, there is great danger that a great deal, probably the largest share, of what we have done will drop back, and the condition of things will be what it was in 1890.

5151. Is there any part of this coast where you have found that the people have made such progress in the work of character development and seafaring development that you have been able to withdraw from that branch of the work?—The people differ very much in character. If you take the Burtonport district, the Board has done very little to nurse the fishing there, and the Arranmore men have got very little nursing; and along all that part of the coast a very large development has taken place in consequence of the thing being just started, and the men were not generally instructed, and they are developing very rapidly; and the output of the Burtonport centre is the largest of all the Donegal centres of fishing. Those men have all pushed the thing ahead when they saw there was money in it. They are working it for all it is worth. You could not get a more enterprising, pushing set of men than all those men about Burtonport. Then, when you come to deal with Downy's Bay, we have undoubtedly there been nursing them more, and taking more care of them, starting them in large boats; but there we are dealing with men who are not such seamen as the Rosses men. They are more farmers. The Rosses men, on account of the indentations of the coast there, are all broken in. Many of them have been blue-water sailors. They have taken to fishing, and they keep up the boats in first-rate style, also their gear and nets. There you have a set of men who have gone ahead with very little help from the Board. So in some places there are good results with a very small effort; and in other places, where big efforts have been made, the results are very poor—as in South Connemara.

5152. Would it be correct to say, when you speak of the actual value and possibilities of the west-coast fisheries, that with regard to those places, such as Burtonport, where the people are more naturally efficient, considerable developments may be expected in the immediate future, but that with regard to places, such as South Connemara, where the people have not those natural tendencies, you will have to spend many years training them before you can hope for very much increased results from the fishing?—I think that is so; but I also desire to point out that a great deal of the enterprise is owing to the good fishing having come into existence on the coast, which makes the thing remunerative, and is the greatest possible encouragement to the men to push forward. That is the case up in Donegal. You have got a strong set of men, and you have good fishing. The two things combined have led to the development. I would be wrong in saying that the South Connemara men are not good sailors, because for the same reason, that their coast is indented, they all have boats. They have always been sailing since their childhood, taking cargoes of turf up to Galway, and beating back again in winter and summer, at all seasons of the year. They are first-rate men for facing the sea, but, unfortunately, there is no fishing on that coast at all comparable with the herring fishing, which is going on on the Donegal coast; and, consequently, these men won't go to fish just because you want them to go.

They say if there is any money in it they will go; but they find they have money to earn in the turf business at present, and they will stick to that.

5153. If it is possible for the Aran Islanders to make a good living by fishing why is it impossible for the South Connemara men, who live so close to the Aran Islands, not to share in the fishing grounds that the Aran Islanders tap?—They could do it; but the Aran Islanders have not got this fact made to fall back upon, and the other men have.

5154. Does that mean that the turf trade from South Connemara is more remunerative to the people who live there than fishing would be?—It is a small certainty instead of a big chance.

5155. Mr. BRYCE.—But the turf is gradually becoming more dear?—Yes.

5156. And the chance of dealing with it are lessening as the bog goes further away from the coast?—As the bog gets further and further away from shore, there are increased expenses of getting it there.

5157. Therefore they may be driven on the fisheries?—They are not as enterprising as the men in other places. There is a great difference in their character. They are not at all as pushful. They don't keep their houses or anything else like they do in other congested districts. They have not got the same ambition.

5158. You said there was still a necessity for nursing, using nursing as a convenient word, but I understood you to say yesterday to Mr. Sutherland as regards Donegal you thought that there was very little development to be expected up in Donegal, that, speaking generally, Donegal was being worked to its utmost capacity at present?—We are increasing the number of boats year by year, and how far it will be able to go on doing so I cannot say. We may come to a limit, but on account of the movements of the fish we may have new chances given to us. That I say well expect.

5159. That would be only for deep sea fisheries, because when you said there was not much room for further development that was in connection with the autumn herring fishery being in the bays where only small boats could fish, and where there were at present as many small boats engaged as could be profitably engaged together?—If the fishing was to remain exactly as it is, that is so.

5170. Then you would want a change in the nature of the fishing before you could have any further development?—I think so; the business is capable of much development still, but not to double it in instance.

5171. Does that apply to Inishowen as well as to other districts?—I think it does apply to Inishowen. For instance, the herring come into Downy's Bay in great quantities. They have stuck there now with ups and downs for ten years, but there is no reason why they should not go into Lough Swilly, as far as I can see. They have gone there in times gone by. If an influx of herring took place for ten years into Lough Swilly we would have a new field of work opened up, and there are these possibilities. We cannot put them out of our head when we think of what developments are possible. If the thing was to remain exactly as it is we would know where we are, but it is perfectly certain that things are not going to remain as they are. There will be changes. Any day there may be great developments taking place at Ballybeg, Killybegs, this year is looking up. The fishing there for the last two or three years seems to be improving. The herrings are coming back.

5172. Now that you have so far as the present is concerned developed Donegal so far as may be, is it necessary to keep on this large establishment for instruction and so on, in the nature of a nursery, could you not stop the nursing in Donegal?—You would go back immediately to where you started, in some districts.

5173. Because the necessary habits are not yet engrained?—The men are not yet capable of looking after the boats and working them, or at least a large number of them are not.

5174. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are you not reducing the number of instructors on that coast?—We have reduced them very greatly.

5175. Don't you constantly urge the crews to get on without instruction as soon as it is safe for them to go

go to sea by themselves?—We make them pay for the instruction; they have to pay a share of their earnings for it; and that makes them anxious to get rid of the instructor as soon as they can.

5176. Answering out of Mr. Bryer's question, would you consider that the men who are in the existing fleet of large boats within a few years will be able to go on without instructors?—I think in a very short time half of them would be able to get on without instructors.

5177. While it would not be judicious to create a fleet of boats without seeing what the boats are going to be employed at, don't you think that if you had large boats in greater number at the Donegal coast and crews capable of managing them, they could have been employed for the last few seasons with great advantage fishing out far at sea?—A great number are employed, and a great many more might have been employed, and as I said yesterday, I think that the summer fishery was capable of working any amount of boats, because it is open sea fishing, but if the men had not some means of employing themselves during other times of the year, it seems to me they could not support these boats, the boats could not possibly pay, it would be too short a season.

5178. It would not be wise to put so much capital into the boats and gear as would be required for that fishing, unless the men are prepared to use the boats and gear throughout the rest of the year?—Certainly, and that is the misfortune about all large boat business, that the men think they can get the larger boats and support themselves, and pay their liabilities out of one fishing; that is an impossibility; it was the cause of the destruction of the Manx fleet, which was at one time a splendid fleet of boats. The Manx fishing went down; it was entirely owing to one fishing having failed and the one that remained was not sufficient to support a large fleet. One fishing of a couple of months that might be very good is not sufficient to keep a large boat going with all these expenses, it must be kept working.

5179. When you say the Donegal fishing has apparently almost reached its development, perhaps, what you exactly mean to convey is, that it has received almost that amount of development that it requires from the case of the Board?—I think so, to make it go ahead.

5180. But you don't think it has yet reached the limit of its natural development?—I think not; the limit at present in the autumn are in bays and in herring areas where a certain number of boats can fish, and if a much larger number of boats than that went to fish there would be a danger of collisions and smashing each other, and all that kind of thing. So you are brought to a limit there. Then there is the other fishing in the open sea where any number of boats can take part, and that fishing is capable of much larger development.

5181. Mr. Bryer.—But only if the boats are prepared to go to other places in the off season?—Yes.

5182. Suppose you cannot advise anything else for them to do, then that fishing is not capable of further development?—That is partly a human question. There are plenty of things for them to go to if they like to do it, if they like to go up to the Shetland Islands, like the County Down men or the Arklow men, they can do that, and they might bring back their £200, as some of the Arklow men did this year. If after fishing in the West they went to Ardglass, and made a couple of hundred pounds in a boat, they would be ready to go to other fishings for the rest of the year. The skipper of an Arklow boat told me that in one year he has made eleven hundred pounds.

5183. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would not it be a reasonable expectation, if off Donegal they fished in a larger boat with success ten miles north of Tory one season, that the crew would be willing to go the next season to the Shetland Islands?—Probably they would.

5184. It would not be much more of a journey than for the Achill men to come round to fish in Dornbeg's Bay?—Not as dangerous.

5185. Mr. Sutherland.—How many boats of the character you have been referring to, have you got?—Very few on the West coast.

5186. Of course the Arklow and East coast boats are all good?—Yes, these men have the larger boats—45 or 50 ton boats—but the boats we are using now on the Donegal coast are from 15 to 30 tons.

5187. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is that due to any way to the fact that you have not got piers adequate for the accommodation of the 40 ton boats?—No, it is entirely due to the cost, unless the men were satisfied to wander and knock out two or three seasons' fishing during the year they could not pay for a boat that would cost £500, and her nets. The total expenses might run up to seven or eight hundred pounds. They must go into such a capital expenditure if there is some chance of paying.

5188. The CHAIRMAN.—Am I right in thinking that this is the problem at the present moment: if you build large vessels, these 50 ton boats, and if the people continue their present methods of fishing, you may not get paid for these boats?—That is so.

5189. Whereas until they do get big boats they cannot go out far to sea?—That is the fact.

5190. The difficulty is, who is going to begin?—That is a difficult balance to strike, and it is only by the experience of a great number of years, and with the best advice we can get, that we have fixed upon a certain size of boat as most suitable for the conditions of the present trade. The tendency in Donegal, undoubtedly, is for the men to be creeping up gradually, and we find that they can do better with larger boats. We began with small boats; we have been increasing the size, and the new boats now built are larger than the first boats we built, and are large enough for men to live in.

5191. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You have nothing over thirty tons?—We have nothing on the shore system over thirty tons. There are plenty of boats being given out for boats larger than that.

5192. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is there any chance of the present fishermen accumulating capital of their own that will enable them to keep up with the progress in fishing?—Some of them have. Some of them are saving money.

5193. Take, for instance, any of those to whom you have made loans, have they been in a position at the end of the period of that loan to get a new and larger boat of their own without another advance?—I know of a few cases, but I know there are cases where further loans have been carried out, where the men have acquired also a sufficient amount of capital themselves to buy boats without applying for a fisheries loan.

5194. And I suppose you admit that would be the only justification for making a loan, as a mere temporary expedient to enable a man to start with the accumulation of capital, and ultimately to acquire a boat of his own?—If he is satisfied to pay for the capital, and wishes to get a loan instead of using his own capital, I see no objection to his getting a loan, and to go on borrowing and paying if he finds that suits him better.

5195. Then you contemplate the loan system being permanent?—It has been going on for 100 years with one short period of intermission.

5196. For getting boats?—For getting boats.

5197. Directly as you are getting them?—Yes. In our office we have records going back to 1870. Since the Inspectors of Fisheries were established we have been issuing loans.

5198. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Assuming that we had a special body of fishermen with boats of thirty tons and larger enabling them to get well out to sea, are the piers along the northern and western coasts suitable for boats of that size, or will it be necessary to increase the pier accommodation?—The piers are very often at places where the distribution of fish takes place, like Downings Bay. That is not a place where vessels can live all the year round.

5199. Let me put it another way. Say you had boats of that size, would it be necessary to expend a considerable amount of money in building pier and harbour accommodation for these boats in order to enable people to prosecute fisheries successfully?—Yes, considerable expenditure is desirable, but fishing can develop further under present circumstances. The difficulties are not insuperable. Of course, to give it impetus, to make it go ahead, it would require a good expenditure on piers and harbours. The reason I stick at the question of piers is because there are other things to be done to various natural harbours which are quite as essential.

5200. Mr. BRYER.—You say no shore boat was over thirty tons; but you have made loans for larger boats?—Yes.

5201. What has been done with these larger boats, where are they?—All around the coast.

Oct. 5, 1894.

Rev. William
Spencerwood
Green.

Oct 8, 1906

Rev. William
Spencer
Glasgow.

5203. I am talking of the Congested Districts!—There are some boats in Aran that are full size boats—forty-five ton boats.

5204. How do these boats make out on a month?—By fishing for mackerel at one time of the year, trawling in Galway Bay another time of the year, and fishing for herrings at another season. They happen to have, on account of the favourable position of Aran Island, other opportunities of making a living, and some of these boats have been bought without assistance.

5205. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What piers and harbours do they use?—They anchor in Killybeg Bay, in the Aran Islands. They do not use any pier at all. They fish in Galway Bay, and put all on board a bulk in the spring mackerel fishing. The bulk is there. They go alongside and put their fish on the bulk. The steamer from Galway comes alongside the bulk and takes the fish away to Galway.

5206. Mr. BRYCE.—But they have to get shelter in this place? They can lie up there very well. Piers are necessary sometimes to give shelter, and sometimes to give facilities for landing?—They go behind the big pier, and undoubtedly the facilities would be much greater if the pier were bigger. There has been one disaster in the Aran Islands in which several of these large boats were wrecked. They were anchored at Killybeg Bay when a north-east gale came on. Five went in one night. Three were totally lost, and good fishermen were drowned. Some of these boats were forty-five ton boats.

5207. Mr. KAVASAGH.—You heard Mr. Doran's evidence?—One day's evidence.

5208. Are you as hopeful as he was about developing the fishing?—I did not hear what he said.

5209. He said undoubtedly the fishery could be so developed as to become of great importance on the West coast?—It can, in certain districts.

5210. Well, taking Donegal, for instance?—I think the condition of the people of the Rosses and around Downings Bay, in that district, is that they are extremely comfortably off now, and more has been done for them by the fisheries than anything that could be done by doubling the holdings or anything of that sort.

5211. Or by migration?—Certainly. In fact it would be a great misfortune if some of these men if you migrated them from Burrenport and put them inland, where they might have perhaps a fifty-acre farm, and they would be better off on the sea coast with two acres.

5212. The CHAIRMAN.—Did you hear Father O'Hara's evidence?—Yes, some of it.

5213. He gave us some information about the manner in which the income of the Congested Districts Board had been spent in the last few years, and I understood that the current estimates for this year an addition of £5,000 had been made under the head of fisheries. If I am correct in that sum, to what particular object has the increase been devoted?—It was in the provision of large boats. There were six new boats to be paid for, and other boats had been ordered, but this is not the complete account of fishery expenditure, because the money comes back in the repurchase of boats.

5214. I only want to know in what way you had devoted the income under the heading of fisheries?—Mr. Mitchell tells me there is a very small increase. The net expenditure given in the table in Memorandum B for 1922 was £1,100.* It rose in the years 1920-1922 to £24,000, and it has gone down now to £2,000. For the last five years it has been dropping, so that in 1925-6 the net expenditure on fisheries was only about £2,200.

5215. Mr. BRYCE.—We have had information, but I don't think we have had it from you definitely, and I would like to ask you, do you think very much can be done for the southern littoral of Galway by the development of fishing, and suppose very much can be done in the way of development of fishing there, do you think the people capable of taking advantage of that development?—I think the people are capable.

5216. Do you think very much is to be hoped for in the way of development of fishing? do you think that in South Connemara there can be much development of fishing?—It is a difficult question to answer, for this reason—it depends on the fluctuations which I have referred to, and which are shown by the dia-

gram, and things off that coast are not so bright now as they were when we began in 1880. If we were back to that time I would say there was a bright prospect. If the mackerel fishing were as good now as then I would say there was every possible prospect of benefiting and raising the condition of these people by the fisheries, but at the present moment I think it is not very hopeful here on account of the great drop that has taken place in the spring mackerel fishing, and on account of the present demand in America being bad. It would be a great deal pleasanter for me to answer you by saying there was a great prospect of the development of fisheries which would improve the condition of these people. I would like very much to be able to say that there was such a prospect, but at the present moment all I can say is that I think that the fishing could be developed, and I think crews will be got gradually to take it there by close attention. We have been unfortunate in the crews we have got. They have left us over and over again.

5217. Mr. SETHLEMAN.—You said you did not hear Mr. Doran's evidence?—I did not.

5218. He divided that part to which Mr. Bryce refers into three classes—A, B, and C. With one he advocated enlargement of their present holdings; with another the migration of the people; and in the other that there should be a development of the fisheries. It is of great importance to us to have the opinion of an expert upon the probability of the success of those who are to remain as poor fishermen, and I notice in your memorandum you are cautious about it. You ask the question yourself is the fishery safe. The fishing is now flourishing, but is it safe? You see the success of the problem of leaving those people is entirely dependent on fishing, which is not yet developed, as the expectation that they can be developed?—I say it is a great difficulty, and that it is the greatest difficulty we have to face. In South Connemara we have been working at it for fifteen years, and we have not yet got a satisfactory crew out of those two parishes. We have got to work at Roundstone, and it has been taken up fairly well, and many have been successful, but we have had a few terrible drawbacks. We have had boats that were working there, and had to be taken up from the people altogether; and in face of all those circumstances, and the fact that out of the parishes of Bannock and Carrara we have not yet succeeded in getting a satisfactory crew to fish, though they are immediately facing the islands of Aran, I find it extremely difficult to say that we are hopeful that fisheries will raise their general condition in the near future.

5219. It would be a serious responsibility, would not it, to leave the people there entirely dependent upon fisheries, considering the fluctuations to which the fisheries are subject?—That is so.

5220. Because, if a bad year or a series of bad years come, you would have the population cut away from the soil, and the fishery to which they had been driven would have proved a failure?—I think everything ought to be done to give these people holdings as good as can reasonably be given.

5221. Mr. BRYCE.—But Mr. Doran told us they would not migrate, and there is no possibility of giving them holdings when they are, because the whole ground is nothing but granite slabs?—There has been a great deal done in the way of starting industries—lacc-making, and things of that sort—and they have earned a great deal of money by the lace-making and other industries there. Besides the turf business there is the kelp burning, but they are not very successful—these particular parishes I am speaking of are not very successful in the kelp business. They are not at all as successful as the more western coast, in Carrara and Roundstone.

5222. Sir JOHN COLMAN.—Taking the coast population of South Connemara, can you compare them in maritime instinct and capability with the people of Aran?—No.

5223. Therefore, you have first to bring them up to that level—the process is to make them capable?—It is.

5224. That being so, is it not your opinion, and to your knowledge, a very long process?—It is very long in that particular instance, because you have to teach them so much.

5226. It is not a matter of a year or ten years; it is really a matter covering at least a couple of generations to get a real maritime spirit!—Yes.

5227. And to teach them to rely upon the sea, and make the best of it?—They are not bad sailors, as far as hooker sailing is concerned. They have got that much to their credit, but their ideas of keeping their gear, boats, and houses, and everything else, are very unsatisfactory; and they have not got the same pride, as it were, in keeping up things bright and efficient, as you have in Demagal. Take the Houses, and compare them with South Comemara. It is about the greatest contrast you can imagine. The people were probably as poor in the one place as in the other. I do not know that they were not; but I know that they undoubtedly present a very different appearance. Their homes, their boats, and everything else are wholly different in one set of men as compared with the others. You have got to teach them not only to be sailors and fishermen, but you have to raise their whole line of life, and put some ambition into them. Yet they are very happy, and enjoy life in their own way, and they get along some way or another, and occasionally get relief. For fifteen years we have been trying to start these people with fishing boats with very poor success, and we have done more for them than for anybody else. We have put boats there at their disposal, with instructors to teach them, and put no responsibility on them at all, except to go out fishing and see what the thing is like, and take whatever earnings there may be, and even in that way we have found it difficult to keep the crews together.

5228. But taking the conditions as they are, whatever is done, complete success must be more or less remote?—It must be remote in that way.

The CHAIRMAN.—I am afraid we must adjourn now

and ask you to come back again on some other day for an hour or two. But I think Sir Antony MacDonnell wishes to put a further question.

5229. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I merely wish to make clear what I want. The Board have selected certain posts—I have a list of them here—with which you are quite familiar; Malin Head, Cleppan, Chiffen, and so on—they have selected places all round the coast line on which they have concentrated the fisheries, and which they have made headquarters of the fishing industry. That selection of points was quite in accordance with the recommendations of the 1837 Commission, to which I have already alluded, namely, that facilities should be provided in those places most conveniently situated as regards the fisheries and as regards the aptitudes of people engaging in fisheries. Now, what I want is that you would pass under review the whole of the posts which the Board have selected along that coast. You could consider whether those posts, in view of the experience you have had, have been conveniently selected, whether any of them should be abandoned in favour of any other new posts or whether any other new posts should be added to the list. You could also consider whether in each of those posts there are adequate facilities for the boats such as we have been dealing with, whether the facilities are such as would be required in case of further development. If they are not adequate, what would be your recommendations in each case for making them adequate?—I will endeavour to do that.

The CHAIRMAN.—When you give us that information which Sir Antony has just asked for, you might also give us information with regard to the little memorandum you referred to about transit facilities, and work in the two together.

Oct. 5, 1906

—
Rev. William
Spence
Green.

The Commission adjourned.

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APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

Tables put in by Mr. W. L. Micks, in connection with the Evidence given by him before the Commission.

I.—Statement showing Counties in Ireland and their Population (excluding Towns) according to the Census for the last three decades

Name of County.	Population (excluding Towns) in			Observations.
	1861.	1891.	1901	
ULSTER :—				
Antrim, ...	208,342	182,251	150,565	
Armagh, ...	198,595	137,730	93,637	
Cavan, ...	125,840	106,081	91,623	
Donegal, ...	201,000	185,844	168,962	
Down, ...	208,778	183,064	157,430	
Fermanagh, ...	75,167	65,000	60,018	
Londonderry, ...	125,976	106,186	94,898	
Monaghan, ...	91,697	76,328	64,938	
Tyrone, ...	180,110	153,536	132,546	
Total, ...	1,243,173	1,068,362	1,017,697	
MIDLAND :—				
Clare, ...	128,180	114,928	101,390	
Cork, ...	246,591	223,024	201,667	
Kerry, ...	184,478	160,743	146,598	
Limerick, ...	136,621	119,684	103,529	
Tipperary, N. R., ...	78,266	64,554	65,896	
Tipperary, S. R., ...	86,420	72,776	64,727	
Waterford, ...	80,927	66,264	53,865	
Total, ...	1,006,165	920,102	866,182	
LANSNETS :—				
Carlow, ...	58,229	53,625	47,516	
Dublin, ...	69,137	66,675	64,098	
Kildare, ...	64,443	58,376	64,296	
Kilkenny, ...	84,567	73,355	66,710	
King's Co., ...	82,799	66,788	47,108	
Louth, ...	58,439	43,966	41,202	
Leath, ...	50,452	41,649	38,101	
Meath, ...	79,181	69,090	60,717	
Queen's Co., ...	61,238	54,423	50,063	
Westmeath, ...	60,008	50,342	53,512	
Wexford, ...	87,220	86,810	79,453	
Wicklow, ...	57,631	50,129	45,968	
Total, ...	791,323	701,800	627,562	
CONNAUGHT :—				
Galway, ...	225,863	191,873	163,766	
Lettin, ...	90,272	78,815	66,318	
Mayo, ...	225,138	206,560	187,194	
Roscommon, ...	122,740	105,807	97,423	
Sligo, ...	100,770	87,739	75,818	
Total, ...	765,883	682,797	595,629	
Total Ireland, ...	3,065,006	3,482,561	3,045,280	

II.—Statement showing Towns in Ireland and their Population according to the Census of the last three decades

No of Towns in 1881,	...	113
" " 1891,	...	118
" " 1906,	...	134

Name of City or Town.	Population in			Observations.
	1881.	1891.	1901.	
PROVINCE OF LEINSTER				
Co. CARLOW —				
Carlow,	7,165	8,639	9,513	Prior to 1896 partly in Queen's Co.
Baginbun,	5,141	5,889	1,892	
Tullow,	—	—	1,837	Constituted in 1902.
Co. DUBLIN —				
Dublin,	245,602	245,881	290,638	
Rathfriland and Rathgar,	24,270	27,296	30,602	
Penrthro,	25,222	26,589	27,739	
Kingstown,	16,266	17,352	17,417	
Blackrock,	8,908	8,400	8,719	
Drumcondra, Clontarf and Glasnevin,	4,658	7,699	—	These towns were added to Dublin in 1900.
Kilmainham (Doherty),	5,251	4,539	—	
Clontarf,	4,210	5,164	—	
Dalkey,	3,024	3,197	3,396	
Rathfriland and Ballybrack,	2,907	2,649	2,744	
Rathfarnham,	2,442	2,373	2,336	
Co. KILDARE —				
Nam,	3,808	3,735	3,835	
Athy,	4,141	4,222	3,899	
Newbridge,	2,372	4,000	3,993	
Co. KILKENNY —				
Kilkenny,	12,399	11,048	10,609	
Callow,	2,340	1,072	1,340	
King's Co. —				
Tullamore,	5,098	4,593	4,639	
Birr,	4,245	4,313	4,438	Known as Farnham formerly.
Elmsted,	—	—	2,021	Constituted in 1902.
Co. LANCASHIRE —				
Loughlin,	4,380	3,897	3,747	
Glenties,	—	1,634	1,622	Constituted in 1885.
Co. LEITH —				
Dundalk,	11,513	12,646	13,016	
Drogheda,	12,397	11,673	12,390	Formerly in the geographical County of Louth and Meath, but the population in each decade was in Co. Louth exclusively.
Ardee,	2,422	2,067	1,883	
Co. MEATH —				
Nasra,	3,873	3,988	3,829	
Kells,	2,822	3,402	3,438	
Trim,	1,546	1,501	1,513	
QUEEN'S CO. —				
Maryborough,	8,673	8,839	8,667	
Newtownfick,	8,128	2,423	2,407	
Co. WATKINS —				
Arklow,	6,756	6,242	6,617	Prior to 1896 partly in Co. Wick.
Ballingar,	4,787	5,323	4,500	
Co. WATKINS —				
Wexford,	10,343	11,645	11,368	
New Ross,	4,670	5,047	5,047	
Enniscorthy,	5,896	5,648	5,453	
Geary,	2,450	2,013	2,178	
Co. WATKINS —				
Arklow,	6,535	6,688	7,624	Prior to 1896 partly in Co. Dublin.
Arklow,	4,777	4,172	4,544	
Wicklow,	3,361	3,373	3,368	
Total,	691,809	488,482	525,267	

Name of City or Town.	Population in			Observations.
	1881.	1891.	1901.	
PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.				
Co. CLARE.—				
Feighly, ...	5,367	5,483	5,998	Constituted in 1885 Do 1895.
Kilrush, ...	—	4,805	4,179	
Kilkee, ...	—	—	1,782	
Co. CORK.—				
Cork, ...	89,124	75,345	74,122	Constituted in 1896 Do 1897
Quinnstown, ...	9,755	9,082	7,509	
Finny, ...	5,454	5,829	5,136	
Youghal, ...	5,189	4,317	3,593	
Malton, ...	4,439	4,596	4,545	
Kinsale, ...	3,285	4,025	4,050	
Milltown, ...	3,128	3,145	3,961	
Skibbereen, ...	2,681	3,589	3,206	
Bantry, ...	—	—	3,109	
Chesekilly, ...	2,075	2,221	3,485	
Maunton, ...	—	—	3,010	
Buckley, ...	3,997	3,458	2,889	
Co. KERRY.—				
Trillick, ...	3,519	3,215	3,857	Constituted in 1882
Killarney, ...	2,693	2,519	2,525	
Lisdoon, ...	—	3,584	3,005	
Co. LIMERICK.—				
Limerick, ...	26,562	27,155	28,151	Constituted in 1896.
Blanchardstown, ...	—	—	2,559	
Ballinacorney, ...	2,549	2,075	1,749	
Co. TARRANT (North Riding).—				
Straw, ...	5,422	4,722	4,704	
Thurles, ...	4,689	5,511	4,471	
Youghal, ...	2,604	2,433	2,774	
Co. TARRANT (South Riding).—				
Glouch, ...	5,225	5,489	10,107	Prior to 1896 partly in Co. Waterford.
Tipperary, ...	7,274	6,281	6,281	Do do do
Carrick-on-Suir, ...	6,583	5,204	5,406	
Cabes, ...	3,951	3,318	2,936	
Fethard, ...	1,920	1,667	1,496	
Co. WATERFORD.—				
Waterford, ...	22,457	20,852	18,789	
Dungarvan, ...	5,286	5,585	4,859	
Lismore, ...	1,800	1,602	1,553	
Total, ...	263,559	249,300	237,065	

Name of City or Town	Population in			OBSERVATIONS.
	1881.	1891.	1901.	
PROVINCE OF ULSTER.				
Co. ARMAGH —				
Belfast,	256,112	255,950	348,188	Prior to 1881 partly in Co. Down. Do. do. do.
Lisburn,	16,155	12,320	11,463	
Ballymore,	4,683	6,256	13,286	
Larne,	4,716	4,211	6,670	
Carrickfergus,	4,182	1,218	4,208	
Ballymoney,	3,045	2,975	2,958	
Ballyclare,	—	—	2,601	Constituted in 1901. Do. 1892.
Portrush,	—	1,635	1,941	
Arthurs,	1,647	1,585	1,825	
Co. ARMAGH —				
Lurgan,	10,135	11,429	11,782	
Portadown,	7,820	8,430	10,892	
Armagh,	10,070	7,421	7,888	
Keady,	1,598	1,428	1,696	
Thanderages,	1,592	1,444	1,627	
Co. CAVAN —				
Cavan,	8,080	2,968	2,529	
Belturbet,	1,807	1,675	1,587	
Castell,	1,789	1,293	1,509	
Co. DOWN —				
Lethbride,	2,188	2,220	2,370	
Ballyshannon,	2,440	2,471	2,359	
Co. DUBLIN —				
Nenry,	14,598	12,060	12,486	Prior to 1891 partly in Co. Armagh.
Newtowns,	9,075	9,197	9,110	
Bangan,	3,005	3,224	3,303	
Blackbridge,	5,009	4,661	5,090	
Blackwood,	3,223	3,268	3,840	
Downpatrick,	3,419	3,132	2,993	
Downora,	2,491	2,266	2,227	
Downgladen,	—	—	2,194	Constituted in 1901. Do. 1892.
Warrenpoint,	—	1,070	1,217	
Newcastle,	—	—	1,213	Do. 1900.
Gilford,	1,224	1,076	1,166	
Co. FERMANAGH —				
Enniskillen,	5,712	5,079	5,412	
Co. LONDONDERRY —				
Londonderry,	25,102	31,330	30,092	
Coleraine,	1,895	5,845	6,965	
Lisnady,	9,954	3,791	9,698	
Co. MONAGHAN —				
Monaghan,	3,369	2,668	2,622	
Clontarf,	2,324	2,082	2,048	
Carrickmacross,	2,002	1,719	1,674	
Castleblagney,	1,810	1,721	1,676	
Ballyboy,	1,664	1,378	1,258	
Co. TYRONE —				
Stirlane,	4,196	4,032	5,053	
Omagh,	4,226	4,029	4,769	
Dungannon,	4,084	3,812	3,694	
Coleraine,	3,979	3,845	3,981	
Aughnacloy,	1,553	1,135	974	
TOTAL,	399,810	451,622	505,819	

Name of City or Town	Population			Observations
	1851	1891.	1901.	
PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.				
Co. GALWAY.—				
Galway, ...	12,471	13,866	13,436	From 1856 partly in Co. Roscommon.
Ballisodoge, ...	4,722	4,542	4,904	
Tulla, ...	3,557	3,012	2,895	
Longford, ...	3,150	2,815	2,537	
Co. MAYO.—				
Bellinacorney, ...	2,700	4,545	4,545	
Westport, ...	4,409	4,070	3,899	
Castlerea, ...	2,856	2,508	2,365	
Co. ROSCOMMON.—				
Boyle, ...	2,664	2,664	2,577	
Roscommon, ...	2,117	1,994	1,691	
Co. SLIGO.—				
Sligo, ...	10,398	10,374	10,270	
Total, ...	55,972	55,475	53,068	
SUMMARY.				
LINCOLN, ...	451,546	469,652	525,297	
MIDLAND, ...	302,900	349,300	357,006	
UNION, ...	299,896	451,652	545,823	
CONNAUGHT, ...	55,972	51,475	51,999	
Total, ...	1,521,286	1,521,582	1,489,225	

APPENDIX II.

Memoranda and Tables put in by Mr. F. W. D. Mitchell in connection with the Evidence given by him before the Commission.

Memorandum A.—Relations of the Congested Districts Board with the Irish Land Commission.

PERIOD 1891-93.

The relations of the Congested Districts Board with the Irish Land Commission were at first by the Act of 1891, confined to four matters:—

1. Clerical staff.
2. Agricultural business.
3. Amalgamation of holdings.
4. The holding of land, securities, &c.

Clerical staff.

(1.) The Staff of the Board's Office was originally drafted from that of the Land Commission, and the permanent members of the Staff will be pensioned as officers of the Land Commission, that being a permanent Department, while the Board is temporary. Questions having arisen as to the Board's power to appoint officers under the Act of 1891, that power was given by the Congested Districts Board Act of 1894, Section 3.

Agriculture.

(2.) Mr. Wrench, having been appointed to the Board to represent agriculture and forestry, had the direction of this part of the business, subject to the Board's sanction in all important matters, until he became an Estates Commissioner in 1903. Mr. Thomas Porter acted as Superintendent of agricultural operations during this period, assisted by Mr. Walter Pigot, a First-Class Clerk on the Land Commission Staff. The Board also paid the salaries of three clerks, and further assistance was provided by the Land Commission, without any charge to the Board, until June, 1893, when Mr. Pigot was transferred to the Board's Office with his Staff, and the salaries were in future paid by the Board. In 1890 Mr. Porter became an officer of the Department of Agriculture. As he continued to superintend the Board's agricultural work, it was arranged that from 1st April, 1903, half of his salary and subsistence (that is half of £900 per annum) should be paid by the Board.

Amalgamation of holdings.

(3.) The provisions of the Act of 1891 in regard to the amalgamation of holdings by the Congested Districts Board, with the assistance of the Land Commission, were not put into practice. No provision was made for the Board to purchase estates, and their interference with tenants on the estates of other owners for the purpose of arranging enlargements of holdings was apparently unworkable, and no steps were taken to put this part of the Act into operation.

Trustees.

(4.) The Congested Districts Board Act, 1893, relieved the Land Commission of the duty of acting as Trustees for the Board, by enabling the Board to hold land through Trustees, and this change took effect in time for the Board's first estate, the Ffrench, to be vested in two members of the Board as Trustees.

The Knocklough plantation had, however, been previously held for the Board by the Land Commission, as well as some Stock belonging to the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund and the Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund.

PURCHASE OF LAND, 1893-95.

When the Board, after negotiating with the owner, proposed to purchase the Ffrench Estate in 1893, the Land Commission at first refused to consent or to provide the money, as it appeared to them that the Board were exceeding their powers, but subsequently they assented, and the estate was bought.

This transaction closes the earliest stage of the Board's relations with the Land Commission.

Purchase of land.

The position from that time until 1896 was that the Board, being able to purchase estates out of their own funds, had to sell them to the tenants through the Land Commission as other land-owners did, with the exception that the Congested Districts Board Act of 1894 empowered the Board to give a guarantee to the Land Commission in lieu of the retention of a guarantee deposit, when an advance was made to a tenant for the purchase of his holding, or to give a guarantee which would prevent the tenant's annuity in any case exceeding 4 per cent. per annum, as it might do under Section 8 of the Act of 1891. To effect this latter purpose the Board had to guarantee the payment of the tenant's instalments.

Ffrench estate.

The holdings on the Ffrench Estate were resold to the tenants in 1894-95 for £29,268 Guaranteed Land Stock, which was sold by the Board for £10,242 cash, leaving a small profit on the whole transaction.

The Land Commission retained £1,317 out of the selling price of the estate as a guarantee deposit on certain of the holdings, which were not, in their opinion, sufficient security for the advances. When the Act of 1896 permitted the Land Commissioners to refund guarantee deposits in cases where they thought fit, the Board obtained payment of this £1,317, and the account was closed.

The Board's next purchases, by means of their own funds, were the Clare Island and Leonard Estates in 1895 and 1896, costing, with improvement outlay, £10,547 and £9,567 respectively. As these were very poor estates, and the Board wished to recover as much of their capital as possible, while charging the tenants moderate annuities, it was decided to sell the holdings, not through the Land Commission or under the Purchase Acts, but under special agreements limiting the tenants to pay the Board 3½ per cent for 68½ years on the prices fixed by the Board. Under this settlement, the annuities on the Clare Island Estate were £335 a year in place of the former rental of £485. For further particulars see 10th Report, page 21. Five years afterwards 3½ per cent was adopted by Parliament as the annuity payable in all sales under the Irish Land Act, 1903.

Clare Island.

PURCHASE AND RE-SALE, 1896-1903.

In 1896 another great Land Act was passed, and for the first time funds were to be advanced to the Board to enable them to purchase estates, but there was one restriction on the power of re-sale—viz., that the Land Commission were not to make an advance to enable the tenant of a "small holding," valued at less than £10 a year, to purchase his holding, although the Commission might make advances for small holdings belonging to any other owner of land.

Re-sale of estates.

The Board would consequently have to sell these "small holdings" in the same way as they sold the Clare Island holdings, but before any such case occurred this restriction was removed by the Congested Districts Board Act, 1899, which also enabled the Board to obtain advances for clearing off charges on the estates by means of advances of Stock. In this period commencing with the Land Act of 1896 and continuing until 1903, the Board bought 43 estates by means of advances of Guaranteed Land Stock from the Land Commission, including estates in which the estates were purchased from the Land Judges' Court. The total amount advanced to the Board for these purchases was £451,227, 0s., including advances for the redemption of charges on the lands, £502,797. The Board also bought two small properties (Herbert and Jemie) out of their own funds.

SPORTING RIGHTS.

In June, 1900, the Congested Districts Board, having in view the letting of the sporting rights on the Dillon Estate, for the sole benefit of the tenants, decided to reserve these rights when selling the holdings to the tenants. The Board were of opinion that these rights were a valuable asset, if reserved over the entire estate, but that if each tenant were the owner of the sporting on his own holding it would in practice be impossible to induce many of them to combine and let the shooting over a large area. A considerable number of the tenants had expressed their willingness to purchase their holdings subject to the reservation proposed by the Board, and many agreements were signed accordingly. The Board had reserved an offer of £11,000 for the sporting rights on the entire estate, with Loughgryn House and demesne, including about 700 acres of arable land, 300 acres of plantations, and 142 acres of bog. They have since sold the house, and 100 acres of land immediately surrounding it for £3,100, and the sporting rights, which are the property of the individual tenants, are of very little pecuniary value.

Sporting rights.

On 16th December, 1900, Mr. Commissioner O'Brien, to whom the sale of the estate had been allotted, objected on general grounds to the Board retaining the sporting rights when selling the holdings.

When the opinion of Mr. Commissioner O'Brien was published in the newspapers, meetings were held by the tenants, and resolutions were passed objecting to the reservation of the sporting, by the Board. A petition signed by three tenants, one of whom has since acquired the shooting from a good many of the other tenants, was addressed, on 7th March, 1901, to the Judicial Commissioner, who was about to hear an appeal from Commissioner O'Brien's decision lodged by the Board on 12th February, 1901. The appeal was decided in the Board's favour on 19th March, but as the tenants, when questioned by the Chief Secretary at Ballaghaderreen, said they did not wish the Board to retain the sporting rights, they were informed that the Board would comply with their request.

The Board adopted, on 5th July, 1901, the following draft resolution, proposed by the Chairman at the meeting on the 31st May, 1901, viz.:—

"On estates, or portions of estates, where the sporting rights are, or may be expected to become, a source of profit, the policy of the Board shall be either (a.) to reserve these rights to the Board for the benefit of the purchasers, or (b.) to invite the purchasers to form a representative committee, and to vest the sporting rights in the committee, or in trustees nominated by the committee, for the benefit of the new peasant-proprietors.

"Where, in the opinion of the Board, other amenities can be advantageously transferred to such committees as seem fitted and willing to administer so important a trust, the Board will aim at transferring them from time to time, and will co-operate with such committees in turning them to the best account."

The sporting rights have been conveyed to the tenants individually in most of the subsequent sales. In a few cases the Vendor retained these rights when selling to the Board.

TURBARY RIGHTS.

On the Dillon Estate the supply of turbary is very limited, and the Board, exercising the powers given them under the Land Act of 1881, have parcelled out the turf bogs which were situated on about half the holdings, so as to give all the 4,200 tenants sufficient turbary for many years. In order to effect this distribution in the most equitable and convenient manner, about 2,000 tenants have been given the right to cut turf on other holdings, with the stipulation that nine inches of mould shall be left when the bog is cut away, and the original tenant then has the sole

Turbary rights.

Turbary rights.

use of the land. In order to give each tenant a right to get turf as near as possible to his house, while the supply would last, many tenants have a right to cut turf on certain defined plots on the holdings of several other tenants, so that they should not have to go to the most distant plots until they have exhausted the nearer supplies. On one holding, which contained a very large extent of bog, as many as seventy-two tenants were given a right to cut turf. Rights of way to give access to the various plots marked on the map, had to be provided and defined.

A specimen of one of the four different forms of Sale-agreement (containing references to the turbary plots as arranged by the Board) in use before the passing of the Land Act of 1903 is submitted.

After the passing of that Act it was seen that the form of Sale-agreement issued by the Land Commission with their new Rules did not provide a space, as formerly, for particulars of turbary plots, and the Commission were asked to allow the Board to continue their previous practice and insert such particulars on the agreement.

It appears that the necessity of checking and comparing such a large number of agreements at the Land Commission, to see that a plot given to tenant A on the holding of tenant B was correctly noted on each Sale-agreement, had given much trouble, and had delayed the execution of a large number of sales. The estate was being sold in townlands, and as the turbary allotments linked many townlands together by a network of turbary rights, it was seldom possible to dispose of an entire townland without waiting for the lodgment of agreements on many other neighbouring townlands.

Several conferences having been held between representatives of the Land Commission and of the Board, at which the Under Secretary was present, the conclusions were recorded in the following minutes:—

18th day of January, 1904.

"A meeting was held this day at the Office of the Irish Land Commission, No. 24, Upper Merion-street, Dublin, at which were present the Right Honourable Sir Antony P. MacDonnell and Mr. Deane, as representing the Congested Districts Board for Ireland, and Sir John H. Franks, C.B., Mr. Henry C. Lynch, and Mr. J. Herbert Shaw, as representing the Irish Land Commission.

"The matter for consideration was whether the agreements for sale and consequent Vesting Orders of Estates to be sold by the Congested Districts Board to tenant purchasers should contain provisions giving to such purchasers specific rights of turbary on, and specific rights of way over each other's holdings. After full discussion, it was agreed that the best course for the Congested Districts Board to adopt would be to get each purchaser to sign a preliminary agreement where necessary (to be settled by the Congested Districts Board Solicitor and Counsel) setting out clearly by reference to maps enclosed or otherwise such rights of way and turbary, but that having regard to Section 34 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896, such rights should not be inserted in the agreements for sale to be lodged with the Land Commission nor in the Vesting Orders."

The principle was then adopted that the sale agreement should not be used as the instrument for conveying rights or easements which had not previously belonged to the tenant; its sole purpose should be to sell the holding with whatever rights already attached to it. It followed from this decision that the rights of turbary and rights of way which the Board desired to confer on a tenant must be the subject of a deed executed before the signature of a sale agreement. The Board's Solicitor and Counsel prepared forms for this purpose, and they are now used for all estates where it is necessary to readjust the turbary. The Land Commission consented to accept on the old forms the agreements of tenants which were linked, by the mention of turbary plots, with other agreements already lodged.

It was not until May, 1904, that the difficulty was finally arranged, and the new turbary deeds were supplied for use in the Board's Office. Rights of way to quarries and gravel-pits are secured by deeds of a character similar to the turbary deeds above referred to.

Re-sale of Estates.
Act, 1896.

With regard to the re-sale of estates bought under the Act of 1896, advances to tenants amounting in all to £256,475 were made by the Land Commission after inspection of the holdings by one of their officers, and that sum was "written off" the Board's debt for the original advance made to enable them to purchase. At the same time the Board had to give guarantees to the Land Commission under Section 1 (a) and (b) of the Congested Districts Board Act, 1894 (see form of Guarantee submitted).

INSPECTION OF HOLDINGS.

Inspection of
Holdings.

Mr. Deane, the Board's Chief Land Inspector, drew attention in his report of 1st March 1899, to the difficulty created by the Land Commission estimating the value of new holdings on untenanted land on the Board's estates on the same basis as old holdings on which all improvements belong to the tenants, while on a new holding they belong to the Board. Attention was also drawn to the fact that after the Board's officers had been dealing with the tenants for perhaps several years, while the estate was being prepared for sale, and had settled everything with them, as to boundaries, improvements, turbary, rent, arrears and terms of re-sale, it would have a very disturbing and injurious effect if a Land Commission Inspector then appeared on the scene and opened up the whole question of the value of the holding and the terms which had been agreed upon between the Board and the tenant, terms which had been confirmed by the sale-agreement executed by both parties and lodged at the Land Commission.

Having these considerations in view, the Board, in December, 1900, applied to the Land Commission for advances for the purchase by the tenants of their holdings on the Dillon Estate, at the prices fixed by the Board, and agreed to by the tenants, without an inspection by the officers of the Land Commission, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the holding was security for the advance. The Board offered to give the Land Commission a guarantee under Section 1 of the Congested Districts Board Act, 1894, and, as required by Sub-section 4, they applied to the Treasury for their approval, but were informed (7th March, 1901), in reply that the Treasury would treat such guarantee as advances of Guaranteed Land Stock, so far as the limit of issues of Stock in each county was concerned.

The case came before the Court on 19th March, 1901, and the decision given was that inspection would be waived if the Board guaranteed the tenant's repayments.

The following minute giving the guarantee required by the Land Commission was passed by the Board on 31st May, 1901:—

With reference to the Order of the Irish Land Commission, dated the 19th March, 1901, respecting a Guarantee on the sale of the Dillon Estate under the provisions of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Act, 1894, it is hereby resolved that we, the Congested Districts Board for Ireland, having obtained the consent of the Treasury for the purpose as required by the provisions of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Act, 1894, do hereby guarantee that we will make good any default by any of the purchasers on the Dillon Estate in payment of any instalments of the annuities, including interest, from time to time payable by them under the Land Purchase Acts, in respect of the several amounts which have been sanctioned and advanced by the Irish Land Commission on account of the purchase-money of their several holdings on the said estate to the extent to which it might have been made good if the whole advance in each case had been retained as a Guarantee Deposit. And for the purpose of more fully assuring to the Irish Land Commission the due observance of the Guarantee so given, we do hereby charge such portion of the sum of £1,500,000 referred to in the 35th Section of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, as the Church Surplus Grant, and any interest which shall from time to time be payable to us in respect thereof, with such sum (or sums) as we, the said Board, may from time to time become liable for to the said Irish Land Commission on foot of the Guarantee hereby given, and that this Guarantee shall constitute a charge upon the said Church Surplus Grant, and all interest payable thereon; and further, that in the event of any sum (or sums) becoming due by the Board to the Irish Land Commission under the terms of this Guarantee, the Land Commission may deduct the same from the interest on the said Church Surplus Grant.

PURCHASE OF LAND—ACT OF 1903.

Since 1903, when the Act of that year provided cash advances for the purchase of estates by the Board, the redemption of all charges being undertaken by the Vendor and included in the price, the Board have purchased 103 estates for a total of £1,250,135. An important change in procedure was made by this Act. Instead of the titles of Vendors being investigated by the Board's Solicitor, this is now done by the Examiners in the Estates Commission Office (see Rules submitted) and when title is found to be satisfactory the Commissioners make an order vesting the estate in the Congested Districts Board. The purchase-money does not pass through the Board's hands being distributed by the Land Commission.

The only objection the Board have seen to this arrangement, which relieves them of the legal expenses of investigating title, is that delay has occurred in the vesting of estates. The annexed statement shows that up to 31st March title had been investigated by the Commissioners in only sixteen out of 66 cases in which the "Originating Requests" had been lodged at the Estates Commission in accordance with their Rules. The loss entailed by issuing the new Stock at such a heavy discount as 14 per cent. and the difficulty of obtaining priority for the consideration of the Board's cases had much to do with the delays referred to. Since 31st March more rapid progress had been made in the vesting of the Board's estates.

In order to obtain advances from the Land Commission under the Act of 1896 the Board had to produce at the Commission their agreement with the vendor, but the Board completed the purchase and paid the purchase money.

For the purchase of estates by the Board the procedure may be briefly explained as follows:—
When the Board have reason to think that an estate for sale in the Land Judges' Court might be suitable for their purposes their Solicitor applies for particulars, and if the estate is ready for sale a map and rental are supplied and are sent to the Chief Land Inspector. His report is considered at the next meeting of the Board who may decide to offer the price recommended in the report; the Solicitor makes the offer and if it is accepted the Judge's Order accepting it vests the estate and all arrears in the Board. A copy of the Judge's Order is sent to the Land Commission with a request for the issue of an advance for the purchase-money, which must be issued by the Commission to the Land Judge within fourteen days of the date of the Land Judge's Order, otherwise interest at five per cent. must be paid by the Board. At the next meeting of the Board a Declaration under Sect. 38 of the Act of 1903 is passed and a copy signed by the Secretary is sent by the Board's Solicitor to the Vendor's Solicitor to enable him to claim the bonus under Sect. 43 of the Act, if so entitled.

In the majority of cases the estate is not in the Land Judges' Court, and the owner is asked to supply particulars on a printed form. A copy of the rental and a map are also asked for, and certificates of valuation are obtained by the Board from the Commissioner of Valuation, at a cost, in an ordinary case of about £3, but for a large estate the charge is sometimes as much as £17. The particulars and other documents are then referred to the Chief Land Inspector, whose report is considered at the next meeting of the Board. If they decide to make an offer the papers are referred to their Solicitor, who prepares an offer in accordance with all the terms

Vesting of Estates.

Purchase of estates, procedure.

Purchase of estates,
proceeds.

mentioned in the Chief Inspector's report and the Board's ruling thereon. The printed form D, attached meets the usual stipulations. The draft offer is sent to the Secretary, who compares it with the Board's order, &c., and sends it for approval to the Chief Land Inspector. When he returns it, a formal offer is sent by the Secretary to the owner of the estate or his agent or solicitor. If he sends a general acceptance, but suggests amendments, the papers are referred again to the Chief Land Inspector and then to the Board. When terms are finally agreed upon the papers are referred to the Solicitor, who prepares and gets executed a "Preliminary agreement" for purchase, and then supplies the Vendor's Solicitor with the forms required (by Rules attached) to be lodged with the Estates Commissioners along with the Originating Request for an advance for the purchase. When these documents have been furnished and examined by the Board's Solicitor he prepares a formal Resolution of the Board to purchase the estate at the price and on the general terms stated (see Rule 8 of 25th March, 1904), and a Declaration of the Board as required by Section 98 of the Act of 1903, that the estate "is fit to be regarded as a separate estate." This declaration enables the owner to claim the "bonus" of 12 per cent. under Section 48. The Originating Request and accompanying statements and map are then copied for record in the Board's Office, and the originals, with the Resolution and Declaration, are lodged at the Estates Commissioners' Office. The Examiner at that office then communicates with the Vendor's Solicitor, and after satisfying himself as to the title, he draws up an agreement between the Congested Districts Board and the Vendor, as required by Section 79 of the Act of 1903. The draft of this agreement is referred to the Board's Solicitor for approval, and is generally returned immediately. This approval is the only duty required of the Board's officers after the Originating Request has been lodged with the Commissioners. Before the estate can be vested in the Board a public notice must be issued, by the Estates Commissioners under Section 16 of the Act, and this notice entails a delay of at least two months.

Interest payable to
Vendor

From the date fixed in the Board's offer for the estate and mentioned in the formal agreement under Section 79, the Board have to pay the Vendor interest on the purchase-money, usually at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. up to the date when the advance is issued, and when in most cases the Vendor is paid the balance due to him after the redemption of charges on the estate. If, however, the Land Commissioners find it impossible to distribute a portion of the purchase-money after the issue of the advance, the Congested Districts Board is held to be liable for the interest on that sum until it is distributed, although they are paying interest to the Land Commission at 24 per cent. on the advance from the date of its issue up to the date on which they cancel the debt by re-selling the estate to the tenants. As a set-off against this double payment of interest, the Board are entitled to the interest on the investment of the undistributed portion of the purchase-money, and the Vendor is required by the agreement to apply to have the money invested when requested by the Board. These cases are, however, rare, as the Land Commission is generally able to issue the advance and distribute it to the parties entitled on the same day.

PRICES PAID FOR LAND.

Respecting the prices paid by this Board for land, see statement E attached. The Board deal with each case on its own merits, and endeavour to obtain land at as low a price as possible. The circumstances of estates vary so much as to the size of the holdings, amount of arrears, locality, quality of soil, nature and cost of improvement, works necessary, need of re-arrangement, &c., that no fixed scale of prices is at all possible.

RE-SALE OF ESTATES—ACT OF 1903.

Re-sale of Estates—
Act, 1903.

With regard to the re-sale of estates through the Land Commission, when the holdings on any townland are ready for sale, they are mapped by the Board's Surveying staff at Clonmorris, a Schedule giving all particulars of the original and of the improved or new holding is prepared by the Inspector in charge of the estate, examined by the Chief Land Inspector, and brought before the Board at their next meeting for approval. If approved the agreements are prepared in the Board's Office and sent to the Inspector or Clerk of Works on the estate to get them signed by the tenant in the presence of a Magistrate or Commissioner of Oaths, the rent due up to date since last sale day being collected by the Inspectors in accordance with a schedule prepared in the Rent Collection Branch of the Board's Office. The Board's Solicitor then prepares an Originating Statement of particulars of the estate, and lodges it with the Land Certificate (obtained from the Local Registration of Title Office), at the Land Commission.

Then the first batch of tenant's sale-agreements, with map, schedule, and a certificate signed by the Secretary guaranteeing payment of the instalments, as required by Section 80 of the Act of 1903, are lodged at the Land Commission. The Commissioners do not question the value of the holding as security for the advance, but have it inspected to check the boundaries by the map and see that no other person than the tenant's family resides upon it. The condition of the house is also noted, and if there appears to be any sub-tenant or other objectionable feature a query is sent to the Board and must be discharged before the case can proceed. When notice is received from the Commissioners that the advances to the tenants are provisionally sanctioned a form of affidavit showing that each tenant is in exclusive occupation of his holding is sent from the Board's office to the Inspector or Clerk of Works, who directs the estate agent to visit the holdings and complete the affidavit. When this has been returned it is sent to the Land Commission. It must be sworn within fourteen days of the date fixed for making the advance.

ACCOUNTS WITH LAND COMMISSION.

Board's account with
Land Commission.

When the advances are made for the sums specified in the tenants' sale-agreements the total amount is set-off against the advance originally made to the Board for the purchase of the estate. See Treasury Rule No. 27. To take an example: if the estate originally cost the Board £5,000, obtained from the Land Commission, each batch of advances to tenants, say £1,000 at a time, is

struck off that debt, the Board being charged interest at 2½ on the balance, until all has been liquidated. If the Board have spent a considerable sum, say £2,000, for improving the estate, building new houses, purchasing tenants' interests in large farms, &c., &c., they may have been able to recover £1,000 of this outlay from the tenants, in the sale prices of their holdings, without charging a price which would throw on them a future annuity equal to or exceeding the estimated fair rent of the holding. If £1,000 has thus been recovered that sum will be realised by the re-sales in excess of the £5,000 due to the Land Commission, and this "enhanced value" of the estate is payable by the Land Commission to the Board under the Treasury Rules of 20th February, 1905. It may be assumed that the Board's outlay in the purchase of tenants' interests, being in fact part of the price of the land, regarded as untenanted, will be recovered by the Board in all cases, as such lands are added to the small holdings or formed into new holdings for migrants, and a charge for the occupation interest is always included in the price at which it is re-sold. The Board may not, however, recover the whole of their outlay on buildings, as they have a very poor class of tenants to deal with. Instead of selecting those who are best able to pay, the Board's duty obliges them to select those who are least able to pay, provided they are not capable of working a holding.

Board's account with
Land Commission.

Section 74 of the Act of 1903 limits the total value of untenanted lands in the hands of the Board, namely, at any one time, to £1,237,500.

AMALGAMATION OF HOLDINGS.

Nokan's Additional Land Act, 1889, was passed to enable a landlord, when selling his estate to his tenants, to make additions to the holdings, from land up to that time in his own hands, and to obtain an advance for the price of the enlarged holding, the Land Purchase Acts up to that date having provided only for the sale of land for which there was an existing contract of tenancy. The Purchase of Land Act, 1901 (No. 2), provided that the amalgamation of an additional plot with a holding may be made not only at the time the holding is being purchased, but at any time subsequently during the currency of the annuity, one amalgamated advance being made.

Amalgamation of
Holdings, &c.

The Land Commission have held that they cannot under these Acts make an advance for an enlarged holding if there is a contract of tenancy in existence for the additional plot, whether the occupier of the holding be a tenant or a tenant-purchaser. As the Board frequently place a tenant or a tenant-purchaser of a small holding for a considerable time in occupation of land which they propose to add to the holding as soon as the arrangements for the sale of an estate have been completed, it has been necessary to execute "grazing agreements" in these cases instead of tenancy agreements.

Section 67 of the Land Act of 1903 enables the Land Commission to amalgamate the annuities payable by a tenant-purchaser on two different plots of land, so that they shall constitute one holding and sub-division shall be prevented.—See Treasury Rule 14 of 20th February, 1905, as to the manner in which the new annuity is to be calculated.

The only other point at which the Board's interest is touched by the Land Commission after the re-sale of a holding is that the Commissioners have declined to insure against fire the buildings on the holding erected or improved by the Board, as appears to have been contemplated by Section 66 of the Act of 1903. As the Board have to give a guarantee for the payment of the future instalments the risk falls upon them.

Insurance of Houses.

LIMITS OF ADVANCES.

The limit up to which the Land Commission may make advances to the Board for the purchase of estates in each county has been raised by successive statutes and by the Treasury, as shown below:—

Limits of advances.

I. Section 9 of the Act of 1891 sanctioned advances for the purchase of estates in each county up to a total of twenty-five times the share of the county in the Annual Guarantee Fund established under the Act, and the Lord Lieutenant was authorized to fix the share for each county each year.

II. The Land Act of 1896, Section 43 (2) sanctioned advances in each Congested Districts County up to twenty-five times the share of that county in the interest on the Church Surplus Grant of £1,500,000 in proportion to the population of each of those counties. The interest being £41,250 per annum: the total advances might be £1,031,250. The annexed statement shows the share of each county and the total amount of Guaranteed Land Stock issued in each county.

III. The Congested Districts Board Act, 1899, Section 4, enabled the Treasury to extend the limit of advances as they might determine.

IV. The Purchase of Land Act, 1901, Section (1), enabled the Treasury to extend the limit to fifty times the share of each county in the Guarantee Fund.

The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, on 25th November, 1899, extended the limit of advances for County Roscommon by £25,000, but declined to extend the limit for County Mayo. On 5th July, 1902, they extended provisionally the limit for County Mayo by an additional £100,000. On 23rd July, 1902, the limit for Mayo was definitely extended by £28,000, and on 17th March, 1903, by £19,253, on the application of the Congested Districts Board.

V. The Land Act of 1903, Section 40, allows advances to be made up to thirty times the Guarantee Fund of each county, and raised the limit placed at the discretion of the Treasury to sixty times the county share. Section 73 of the same Act removed the distinction between a Congested Districts County and the county at large, as regards the limit of advances.

ARRANGEMENT WITH ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

At a Conference in the Under Secretary's Room, Dublin Castle, on 24th October, 1904, between the Estates Commissioners and the Under Secretary, at which Mr. Doan and Mr. Stuart were present, it was arranged as follows:—

(a.) That in cases where the Estates Commissioners purchase any estate containing untenanted land in a Congested Districts County they shall, after meeting all reasonable requirements of the untenanted holdings on the estate, or any special cases that they may consider necessary to deal with, confer with the Congested Districts Board and offer to them such lands as they may not require for the purposes named, and that, on the other hand, the Congested Districts Board shall offer to the Estates Commissioners any lands that may come into their hands, which they may consider would be suitable for the purposes of the Estates Commissioners, and

(b.) Where applications are made to the Estates Commissioners to purchase estates comprising a considerable portion of untenanted land in a Congested Districts County, the Congested Districts Board shall be informed, so that they may have an opportunity of conferring with the Estates Commissioners as to the best methods to be adopted to promote the policy common to both.

LIST OF ESTATES vested in the BOARD since the passing of the Act of 1903, with Date of Vesting, up to 31st August, 1906.

NAME OF ESTATE.	Date on which Original Request was made to Estates Commissioners.	Date of Vesting.	Observations.
O'Kelly (Cork), ...	...	{ 16 : 6 : 04 16 : 6 : 04 8 : 6 : 04 6 : 7 : 05 2 : 6 : 04	Court purchase.
James Twiss, ...	...	{ 8 : 6 : 04 6 : 7 : 05 2 : 6 : 04	Court purchase.
Wyle (Keweenaw), ...	...	6 : 6 : 04	Cash purchase.
P. M. Leonard, ...	...	6 : 6 : 04	Court purchase.
D. J. Burke, ...	...	13 : 7 : 04	do.
W. L. Bee, ...	...	7 : 3 : 05	do.
Fullon, ...	21 : 6 : 04	21 : 3 : 05	Land Commission.
Dunne-Longworth, ...	30 : 2 : 04	19 : 4 : 05	do.
St. J. Mahon, ...	13 : 5 : 04	19 : 4 : 05	do.
Madden, ...	...	26 : 4 : 05	Court purchase.
Selfs, ...	...	26 : 4 : 05	do.
Ringham L., ...	20 : 7 : 04	12 : 2 : 05	Land Commission.
Nagart, ...	22 : 10 : 04	15 : 5 : 05	do.
Troxon, ...	13 : 6 : 04	5 : 6 : 05	do.
Margison, ...	14 : 11 : 04	4 : 7 : 05	do.
Ringham H., ...	25 : 10 : 04	7 : 7 : 05	do.
Koch, ...	17 : 11 : 04	25 : 10 : 05	do.
McBride H., ...	1 : 2 : 05	9 : 11 : 05	do.
D. R. Finn, ...	...	6 : 12 : 05	Court purchase.
Hunter, ...	22 : 6 : 04	13 : 12 : 05	Land Commission.
G. W. Roberts, ...	1 : 2 : 05	22 : 2 : 06	do.
John Carey, ...	...	22 : 3 : 06	Court purchase.
D. D. O'Kelly (A. W. King and others), ...	16 : 11 : 04	5 : 4 : 06	Land Commission.
Nolan-Powell, ...	7 : 1 : 05	5 : 5 : 06	do.
Peter Twiss, ...	19 : 10 : 04	14 : 5 : 06	do.
Rev. D. P. Tighe, ...	12 : 10 : 04	14 : 5 : 06	Land Commission.
James Tighe, ...	...	50 : 4 : 06	Court case.
Reps. Iwan, ...	...	17 : 5 : 06	Land Commission.
Colonel Smith, ...	22 : 2 : 05	17 : 5 : 06	do.
McDonnell, ...	9 : 2 : 04	17 : 5 : 06	do.
C. J. Ricks, ...	15 : 7 : 04	19 : 6 : 06	do.
J. C. McDonnell (Woodbrook), ...	2 : 11 : 05	24 : 6 : 06	do.
P. W. Reilly, ...	20 : 7 : 04	9 : 7 : 06	do.
Colin Sander, ...	21 : 12 : 05	9 : 7 : 06	do.
Major French, ...	26 : 4 : 05	9 : 7 : 06	do.
De Freyne, ...	21 : 10 : 05	13 : 7 : 06	do.
J. G. Murphy, ...	22 : 12 : 05	13 : 7 : 06	do.
Armstrong, ...	22 : 2 : 05	24 : 7 : 06	do.
Colonel Gellin, ...	11 : 2 : 05	24 : 7 : 06	do.
V. Foley, ...	1 : 5 : 06	24 : 7 : 06	do.
Mrs. O'Leary, ...	27 : 9 : 05	25 : 7 : 06	do.
Kirwan L., ...	3 : 2 : 05	26 : 7 : 06	do.
King, ...	15 : 4 : 05	26 : 7 : 06	do.
Reverend, ...	25 : 3 : 05	26 : 7 : 06	do.
James McNeill, ...	25 : 2 : 05	26 : 7 : 06	do.
Miss McNeill, ...	3 : 6 : 05	26 : 7 : 06	do.
T. Conner, ...	22 : 4 : 05	26 : 7 : 06	do.
Mrs. O'Leary, ...	25 : 10 : 05	26 : 7 : 06	do.
Lord Harlech, ...	1 : 6 : 05	26 : 7 : 06	do.
Mrs. Morda, ...	25 : 4 : 05	26 : 7 : 06	do.

The following statements show the Board's present liabilities in respect of estates:—

STATEMENT A.

GUARANTEED LAND STOCK ISSUED for the PURCHASE of ESTATES under LAND ACT, 1896, Sec. 43, up to
— 31st JULY, 1906.

CONVENTED DIRECTIONS COUNTY.	Population according to 1901 Census.	Proportion of interest on Church Surplus Ordnance.	Amount of Stock issued by Act of 1896.	Further amount subscribed by Treasury.	Maximum Stock available as re- purchased by Treasury under Act of 1901.	Amount of Land Stock issued to 31st JULY 1906.	Stock subscribed by re- purchases to Treasury up to 31 July, 1906.	Total present liabilities.		
								Balance of Stock Debt.	Balance of Loans due to Board of Works.	Total.
Donegal, — —	104,132	8,944	22,527	—	22,527	12,013	9,985	12,000	2,226	13,041
Letcham, — —	50,860	2,225	63,121	—	63,121	—	—	—	—	—
Sligo, — —	25,611	2,224	63,121	—	63,121	4,224	4,224	—	—	—
Mayo, — —	130,777	16,513	200,000	125,000	200,000	240,702	200,000	3,711	13,286	27,007
Downpatrick, — —	31,053	2,526	63,121	36,613	100,000	65,067	65,067	—	9,600	2,450
Galway, — —	96,621	5,025	120,596	—	120,596	21,022	27,842	20,000	3,015	26,104
Clare, — —	225	99	724	—	724	—	—	—	—	—
Kerry, — —	10,000	4,552	102,702	—	102,702	—	—	—	124	124
Cork (W.B.), — —	22,025	2,904	72,613	—	72,613	—	—	—	—	—
	465,723	41,200	1,202,220	171,613	1,202,220	383,737	479,102	27,000	40,200	71,800

STATEMENT B.

LIABILITIES in respect of ESTATES purchased since the passing of the LAND ACT of 1903,
on 31st JULY, 1906.

COUNTY.	Cash Advances by Irish Land Commission.	Amount repaid off in reduction of Advances.	Balance due to the Land Commission for Advances.	Balance of Debt due to Board of Works for Loans.
Donegal, — —	—	—	—	—
Letcham, — —	—	—	—	—
Sligo, — —	39,757	—	39,757	1,248
Mayo, — —	254,206	—	254,206	10,000
Downpatrick, — —	275,523	—	275,523	1,211
Galway, — —	120,544	9,895	91,709	4,965
Clare, — —	—	—	72,517	—
Kerry, — —	72,517	—	—	—
Cork, — —	—	—	—	—
	732,792	9,895	732,287	18,133

STATEMENT C.

THE BOARD'S LIABILITIES ON all ESTATES on 31st JULY, 1906.

	Donegal.	Sligo.	Mayo.	Downpatrick.	Galway.	Kerry.	Total.
DEBTS:							
Balance of Stock Debt due to I.L. Commission in respect of Advances under Act of 1896.	10,000	—	3,711	—	12,000	—	25,711
Balance of Cash Debt due to I.L. Commission in respect of Advances under Act of 1896.	—	39,757	254,206	275,523	91,709	72,537	732,532
Advances in Cash under Act 1903 in return for loans on estates purchased under the Act of 1896.	—	—	2,555	57	—	—	2,612
Balance of Debt due to Board of Works in respect of Loans advanced.	2,226	1,248	40,000	11,500	8,040	124	62,438
	12,226	40,005	304,564	287,185	112,888	72,701	826,569
LIABILITIES:							
Total Guarantee given to I.L. Commission on re-sale of Es- tates.	12,582	4,787	129,000	62,714	59,260	7,006	290,349
	24,808	44,792	433,564	349,899	172,148	79,707	1,125,010

[FORM D.]

[Particulars to be furnished by the owner of an estate offered to the Board].

SUMMARY.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD FOR IRELAND.—MIGRATION, ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS, &c.

Estate of _____

Electoral Division _____

County _____

Names of Townlands _____

1. Union _____

	Number of Townlands	Statute Acres	Poor Law Valuation.		Annual Rental.						Observations.		
					Rents Payable.			Voluntary Abatements allowed on year last collected.					
			A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	G.	H.	I.	J.	
1. Land in Owner's possession.													
2. Land held by Tenants under Landed Estates Court Leases, which determine on Sale of Estate.													
3. Land held by Tenants under Temporary or Agricultural Lettings other than Court Leases.													
Land in the Occupation of Permanent Tenants.													
(a) First Term Judicial.													
(b) Second.													
(c) Yearly Tenants.													
(d) Leaseholds having less than 60 years unexpired.													
Totals.													

* Note.—Leaseholds over 60 years unexpired, Freehold, Incorporeal, and Leases for 999 and similar unexpired interests, which be excluded from this.

† Any Debts chargeable in respect of any land proposed to be sold should also be stated whether due or prospective.

ANNUAL charges or outgoings to which the Estate is liable, viz.—

Town Rates and other Rates and Taxes payable by Owner. £

Maintenance Charges under Public Works Act. £

† Out and Crown Rent. £

Other Annual Charges, if any. £

Present Net Annual Rental after deducting charges payable out of Estate.

Notes asked by Owner for Estate—

Filed from all charges. £

Signature of Owner.

Date.

List of Townlands follows.

STATEMENT E.

Average Prices paid by the Congested Districts Board for Lands purchased by them in each of the years ended on 31st March, 1901 to 1906:—

Year ended 31st March.	No. of Years Purchase of First Term Rents	No. of Years Purchase of Second Term Rents	No. of Years Purchase of Yearly Rents, Leaseholds, &c.	No. of Years Purchase of Annual Value of Unimproved Land.
1901, ...	13½	—	15	28
1902, ...	15	18½	15	28
1903, ...	17	18½	16	26½
1904, ...	19	21	19½	28½
1905, ...	18½	20½	18½	27½
1906, ...	18	21½	18	29
Average price for the six years.	17½	20	17	27½

STATEMENT F.

REDALE OF ESTATES:—SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS under Treasury Rule, No. 25, of Land Act, 1905

Year.	Cash paid for Land Stock.	Land Stock transferred to Irish Land Commission.	Debt written off.	Sinking Fund repaid.	Profit on purchase of Land Stock.	Total of Profit and Sinking Fund.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1904-5, —	31,621 5 5	35,835 0 0	35,835 0 0	2,647 10 4	3,199 10 13	6,662 10 2
1905-6, —	19,661 7 6	16,535 7 6	16,535 12 5	4,875 5 0	11,777 9 1	31,756 5 1
1906-7 (Revised), —	31,275 1 5	19,825 0 11	19,450 1 5	4,454 12 13	7,513 5 5	12,225 0 4
	82,557 35 7	72,195 13 1	72,820 16 5	12,930 35 5	31,789 15 5	58,525 15 5

NOTE.—The profit obtained by purchasing Government Land Stock at a discount (Column 5), is the difference between Columns (1) and (2). The amount of Sinking Fund recovered (Column 4), is the difference between Columns (3) and (4). The amount paid to the Land Commission on advance pending redemption of these advances by instalments of the Estate was £ per cent, which consisted of 2½ Interest, and 1½ Sinking Fund, credited to the reduction of the debt.

F. W. D. MITCHELL,

20th August, 1906.

Memorandum B.—Income and Expenditure of the Congested Districts Board and Money Borrowed by them.

The Board's fixed income for each year since the date of its formation has been as follows:—

Board's fixed income.

YEAR.	Income.		Remarks.
	Interest on Church Surplus Grant.	Parliamentary Grants.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1921-2, —	16,559 15 5	—	Interest on Church Surplus Grant from 5th August, 1921.
1892-3, —	41,350 0 0	—	—
1893-4, —	41,350 0 0	—	—
1894-5, —	41,350 0 0	1,000 0 0	£1,000 Annual Grant from Treasury for Salaries, &c.
1895-6, —	41,350 0 0	1,000 0 0	—
1896-7, —	41,350 0 0	1,000 0 0	—
1897-8, —	41,350 0 0	1,000 0 0	—
1898-9, —	41,350 0 0	1,000 0 0	—
1899-1900, —	41,350 0 0	15,500 0 0	Instalment of Annual Grant of £25,000 in lieu of other aid from Parliamentary Votes.
1900-1, —	41,350 0 0	25,000 0 0	Annual Grant of £25,000.
1901-2, —	41,350 0 0	25,000 0 0	—
1902-3, —	41,350 0 0	35,000 0 1	Instalment of New Annual Grant.
1903-4, —	41,350 0 0	45,000 0 0	Annual Grant of £20,000.
1904-5, —	41,350 0 0	45,000 0 0	—
1905-6, —	41,350 0 0	45,000 0 0	—
	584,055 13 5	127,500 0 0	

Other receipts, forming a "floating income" chiefly from Fisheries, rents, and repayments of loans, not available for general purposes, were expended in connection with the services from which they were derived.

During the first eight years the Board had not to bear the cost of maintenance of offices, printing, stationery, postage or telegrams, but the Treasury, under the 40th section of the Land Act of 1891, paid the salaries of the permanent members of the head quarters staff, and some other expenses as given below.

Total Receipts from
Total Receipts.

STATEMENT showing Total Receipts from Parliamentary Votes from 1st August, 1891,
to 31st March, 1906.

YEARS.	Salaries of Permanent Staff.	Travelling Expenses, Newspapers, &c.	Grants to All Officers, &c. at certain offices on Temporary Staff.	Grant for New Offices.	Grants to All under the C.D.A. Act, of 1899.	Island Development Grants.	Totals.
1st Aug. 1891, to 31st March, 1902.	£ 814	£ —	£ —	£ —	£ —	£ —	£ 814
1892-3, ...	2,056	1,537	—	—	—	—	4,433
1893-4, ...	4,084	1,122	—	—	—	—	5,206
1894-5, ...	5,844	722	1,000	—	—	—	7,566
1895-6, ...	4,022	603	1,000	6,566	—	—	12,191
1896-7, ...	4,128	729	1,000	—	—	—	5,857
1897-8, ...	4,322	817	1,000	—	—	—	6,139
1898-9, ...	4,700	776	1,000	3,500	—	—	9,976
1st April, 1899, to 30th Sept., 1899.	2,444	328	800	—	—	—	3,572
1st Oct., 1899, to 31st March, 1900.	—	—	—	1,700	12,500	—	14,200
1900-1, ...	—	—	—	—	25,000	—	25,000
1901-2, ...	—	—	—	—	24,000	—	24,000
1902-3, ...	—	—	—	—	25,000	10,000	35,000
1903-4, ...	—	—	—	—	25,000	20,000	45,000
1904-5, ...	—	—	—	—	25,000	20,000	45,000
1905-6, ...	—	—	—	—	25,000	20,000	45,000
	28,574	4,647	5,200	3,700	162,500	70,000	264,720
Add for Office Maintenance, Printing, Postage, and Telegrams from £2,000 to £3,000 a year, ...							17,000
TOTAL, ...							£281,720

Fishery funds.

The Act of 1891 transferred to the Board, from the Commissioners of Public Works, the following "Fishery Funds":—

- (a) The Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, consisting of—
 £43,534 in securities.
 2,746 in cash.
 24,124 in outstanding loans on fishing boats, &c.
 Total, £70,394
- (b) Portion of the Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund, consisting of—
 £2,190 in securities.
 4,115 in cash.
 12,561 in outstanding loans on fishing boats, &c.
 Total, £18,866

It will be observed that the funds obtained by the Board have hitherto been chiefly derived from Irish sources, the total from Parliamentary votes having been about £301,000, while the Irish funds amounted to £594,090 from interest on the Church Surplus Grant, and £29,260 from the Fishery Funds.

The balances on the two Fishery Funds, at 31st March, 1906, were—

Irish Reproductive Loan Fund.	
Guaranteed Land Stock,	£5,000 0 0
Cash,	156 13 3
Outstanding Loans,	28,344 2 5
Total,	£33,501 2 6
Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund.	
Cash,	£2,736 18 8
Outstanding Loans,	2,659 2 0
	£5,396 0 8
Grand Total,	£38,897 3 2

In 1893 the Board, with the consent of the Lord Commissioners of the Treasury, drew £50,000 from the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, and applied it to various public works, chiefly piers and roads. (See Letter No. 1 attached).

If the £50,000 transferred in 1893 be deducted from the original total of the assets of the two funds, £85,195, the remaining £35,195 corresponds very closely with the present balances shown above, although £4,000 has been written off by the Board as irrecoverable.

Board's powers, 1891.

The discretion given to the Board by the Act of 1891 was practically complete as regards the expenditure of this endowment, the only condition being that an annual estimate was to be furnished to the Treasury. The Board were informed in January, 1892, by Mr. Jackson, then Chief Secretary, that he believed the Treasury had no intention to accept the responsibility of deciding

or offering any opinion upon the merits of any project proposed by the Board, but that it would probably be the duty of the Treasury to withhold their sanction if they thought that the objects of expenditure were not of a kind contemplated by Parliament when the Act was passed. In connection with the cost of staff and the borrowing of money, the Lord Lieutenant and the Treasury were to be consulted, but as the cost of administration was to be borne on the Parliamentary votes and any borrowing must be from public funds, these restrictions were a matter of course. The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have in fact interfered very little with the Board's schemes, as embodied in their annual estimates. These estimates have almost invariably been approved by Their Lordships without amendment. Having however so frequently to meet new developments, the Board have had to furnish out, and sometimes two revised estimates during a year. When the Board's Parliamentary income was increased in 1899, the Treasury suggested two limitations of the expenditure on certain services, but no interference with the Board's proposals has resulted from these suggestions. The Treasury suggested that the expenditure on picas, roads, &c., should not exceed £5,000 a year after 1904-5, and in the Board's seventh Annual Report, p. 35, such a reduction had also been proposed. The Board's outlay on works since 1899 has however, from various causes fallen far short of the expenditure provided for, as the following figures show, and the Treasury have not insisted on the reduction they had proposed:—

1899-00,	£8,000	—	£6,136
1900-1,	7,000	—	3,225
1901-2,	8,000	—	4,774
1902-3,	6,000	—	3,769
1903-4,	10,000	—	5,636
1904-5,	9,000	—	4,900

The Treasury also stipulated in their letter of 19th August, 1899, that in future the expenditure in each year on

ADMINISTRATION,
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION,
IMPROVEMENT OF ESTATES,

should together amount to at least half as much again as the new Parliamentary grant of £25,000, that is £37,500. This calculation was based on the normal annual expenditure at the time, and the Board have been under no necessity of readjusting any of their schemes or estimates to fulfil the condition imposed. Since the year 1903-4, when a further addition of £20,000 was made to the Board's income, there has of course been even less difficulty in complying with the arrangement referred to, which as a regulation has become obsolete.

In regard to the cost of Staff, the Treasury have not made much concession to the Board as, so early as January, 1894, Their Lordships fixed a "normal staff" of Civil Servants for the Dublin Office which has not since been increased, except by the transfer of one officer of the agricultural staff from the Land Commission in 1898, and the Board have in consequence had to rely on the powers given them by the 3rd Section of the Congested Districts Board Act of 1894, and engage temporary clerks, with the result that, owing to the large increase of business under almost all heads, there are now sixty-three temporary clerks out of a total of seventy-six in the Dublin Office, exclusive of the Secretary and Assistant-Secretary.

Staff fixed by Treasury.

When the Board obtained the Parliamentary Grant of £25,000 a year in 1899, the Treasury stipulated, and Mr. Gerald Balfour agreed, that this sum should be in lieu of the grants hitherto borne on the Votes. In his speech in the House of Commons, introducing the Congested Districts Board Act, 1898, Mr. Balfour stated that the new grant gave the Board an additional income of about £20,000 a year.

New grant, 1899.

In making this statement Mr. Balfour evidently subtracted the sum appearing on the Estimates, about £6,000, including Mr. Pigot's salary, Land Commission, from the £25,000, but after the Act had passed the Treasury adopted the view that the new grant was in lieu of all other assistance hitherto received by the Board from any public department, and Their Lordships accordingly threw on the Board the cost of—

1. Office maintenance, repairs, coal, &c., hitherto defrayed by the Board of Works.
2. Printing and stationery hitherto supplied by the Stationery Office.
3. Postage and telegrams hitherto borne on the General Post Office Votes.

Owing to the extremely heavy correspondence necessitated by the number and extent of the branches of business carried on by the Board, the above charges have amounted in recent years to £2,600, or £3,000 annually, and the additional income intended by Parliament to be granted to the Board has thus been reduced from £20,000, the sum mentioned by Mr. Gerald Balfour, to £16,000, deducting £4,000 previously voted annually for salaries.

The cost of auditing the Board's accounts, estimated at £500 per annum, is still borne on the Votes of Parliament for the Exchequer and Audit Department, the only point on which the Treasury yielded. When the cost of administration of the Congested Districts Board is compared with that of other Departments it should be remembered that the charges above mentioned, are in the case of other public departments, borne on the Votes of the Board of Works, Stationery Office and General Post Office.

The Irish Land Act of 1903 added £20,000 a year to the Board's Parliamentary income, raising it to £45,000, its present figure.

In one other important branch of the business, the purchase of estates, the Treasury have, in the recent correspondence on the Board's Estimates (copies attached), expressed a wish that the Board's dealings in land might be restricted, while the Board, being face to face with a grave problem and realising the urgency of the duty imposed upon them, have found it difficult to refuse to purchase congested estates needing their assistance, or unimproved land conveniently situated for relieving congestion, when opportunity occurred, and they have come to the conclusion that they cannot make any serious impression on the work which lies before them without a considerable addition to their income.

Purchase of estates

Board's accounts.

With reference to the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund and the Sea and Coast Fishery Fund moneys transferred to the Board by the Act of 1891, two suggestions were made to the Treasury by the Board in a letter dated 20th May, 1903, but no steps have yet been taken to carry out these proposals, which were—(1) That the three separate compartments in which the Board's accounts are now kept—viz., Miscellaneous Fund, Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, and Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund—should be amalgamated as one account for the sake of convenience; (2) that the summary powers now possessed by the Board for the collection of instalments of loans issued under the two latter Funds should be extended to the other, so as to include the collection of rent on estates. It was also suggested by the Board that they should be constituted a corporate body with a seal, as in the case of the Department of Agriculture, so as to obviate the difficulty and delay caused by getting the signatures of members of the Board on a large number of documents. (*See Letter No. 1 attached.*)

Loans made

The following is a general statement of all loans made by the Board since 1891:—

SUMMARY	Total Issued.	Total Repaid.	Total Not Repaid on 31st March 1906.	Purpose for which loaned.
	£	£	£	
Agriculture, ...	12,354	4,147	28	Credit Books. Purchase of Live Stock. House Improvements. Fencing. Bookkeeping Appliances.
Fisheries, ...	60,350	55,375	2,839	Boats. Nets and Gear.
Industries, ...	10,581	34,681	631	Barrel Making. Knitting Machines. Looms. Carpentry Tools. Tanning Machines. Boot Factory. Wirenetting Factory. Lodger Factory.
General Purposes, ...	2,500	2,500	—	Steamer service Galway to Ardrahan.
	114,585	78,709	3,503	One Loan in each Class.

A Table is attached showing the net expenditure in each branch of the Board's business for each year up to 31st March, 1906.

Borrowed money.

Borrowed Money.—In 1903, as stated below, the Board borrowed £10,000 from the Board of Works for general purposes, at 2½ per cent. interest, and £7,000 has since been repaid. Mr. Gerald Balfour, in 1895, effected an arrangement with the Treasury by which the Board were enabled to borrow £100,000, in sums not exceeding £30,000 a year, for the improvement of estates, up to a total of £200,000, and the balance of £10,000 for loans to tenants, or groups of tenants, for the improvement of their holdings, it being stipulated that the Board were to provide from their own funds one-third of every loan made by them under this arrangement. As the Board's requirements for estates increased rapidly, while a comparatively small amount of capital was wanted, in addition to the Board's own funds for loans to tenants, an application was made to the Treasury in 1905 to allocate £30,000 of the total to estate works and £10,000 to loans to tenants, and this was agreed to by Their Lordships.

When this arrangement was first made the Treasury required that the principal should be repaid in ten years, but this period has since been extended to twenty-five years. The rate of interest is to be that at which money can be lent by the Commissioners of Public Works, out of the Local Loans Fund, and this is at present 3½ per cent.

The following is a statement of the sums borrowed from the Commissioners of Public Works up to 31st March last:—

PURPOSE	Year.	Sums Borrowed.	Sums Repaid.
		£	£
General Purposes, ...	1894-9	10,000	7,000
Improvement of Estates, ...	1901-2	25,000	3,900
	1902-3	5,000	240
	1903-4	21,000	1,880
	1904-5	19,000	—
	1905-6	35,000	—
		75,000	6,020
Loans to Tenants, ...	1893-5	1,000	519
	1903-4	400	
	1905-6	1,000	
		2,400	519

It will be seen from the attached correspondence that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have informed the Board, in reply to several applications for authority to borrow money for the purchase of the interests of tenants and tenant-purchasers in their holdings, that this is not one of the purposes for which money can be advanced under the Local Loans Acts by the Board of Works. This decision has created a financial difficulty which is quite as pressing as the need of an addition to the Board's income. The reasons urged by the Board are given in their letter of the 9th October last.

The correspondence also shows that the Treasury have revised the method of determining the amount which the Board may borrow in any year for the improvement of estates from the Commissioners of Public Works.

Insurance of Fishing Boats.—A scheme for the insurance of fishing boats against total loss prepared by the Board and adopted by the Department of Agriculture, on behalf of the non-congested districts, was approved by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury in 1905, and was put into operation. Eighty-four policies have been issued for a total of £8,253 9s. Up to the present date no claim has been made against the fund. Each of the two departments contributed £500 to form a nucleus for the fund.

Insurance of boats.

Raiffeisen Banks.—On 13th May, 1888, the Board set aside a sum of £2,000 to be advanced to Credit Banks. This amount was subsequently increased to £6,000, the whole of which sum was outstanding on 31st March last between 67 Banks. Some statistics of the transactions of these Banks are given in the Appendices of the Board's Annual Reports. The total sum paid by the Board up to 31st March, 1906, for the organization of Banks in Congested Districts is £1,234 16s. 6d. A further sum of £174 16s. 11d. was paid to the Society for organization of Co-operative Societies.

Raiffeisen Banks

Expenditure on Estates.

The Statement of Net Expenditure given below shows that the Board have in the past fourteen years, beginning with the purchase of the French Estate in 1892-3, devoted to the estates branch of their work the sum of £152,560, after deducting from the gross payments all receipts and all borrowed money. This is equivalent to nearly £11,000 per annum, but in addition to this sum, charged directly to the "Purchase and Improvement of Estates," large payments have been made under the head of "Administration" for staff in Dublin and in the country and for legal expenses, and when this expenditure is included it will be evident that the Board have devoted a very large part of their funds to this part of their operations.

Expenditure on Estates.

1. The gross expenditure on the purchase of land has been	£559,295
Deduct advances from Land Commission	406,970
<i>Net Expenditure on Purchase</i>	<i>£152,325</i>
2. Gross expenditure on the Improvement of Estates	£483,511
Deduct all Receipts and money borrowed from Board of Works, not yet repaid	387,136
<i>Net Expenditure on Improvements</i>	<i>£96,375</i>

This sum includes £34,000 paid for the purchase of tenants' interests. A further £38,000 is estimated for in the current year.

It was pointed out in the Board's letter of 9th October, 1905 (see page 12) that the cost of acquiring tenants' interests is, in fact, part of the price of the land required for the enlargement of holdings, and they referred to the general policy of the Congested Districts Board Acts, which is to advance to them the funds necessary for the purchase of land. The means available for the improvement of estates would be much increased if facilities were given for borrowing the outlay on tenants' interests.

The cost of "Administration," for salaries and travelling expenses of staff engaged on estates work, for law costs and for other charges at the Dublin office, for the present year are estimated as follows:—

Salaries and Expenses	£14,170
Law Costs	2,500
Proportion of cost of Office Maintenance, Printing, Stationery, Postage, &c.	3,500
	<i>£20,170</i>

A further expenditure of £43,121 during the past nine years under the head of "Parish Committees" might well be included as part of the Board's expenditure on their land operations.

Additional Funds required.

With regard to the need of an addition to the Board's annual income, to enable them to deal with congestion within a reasonable time, it is only necessary to refer to the fact that there are in the Congested Districts about 98,000 holdings, and as the average valuation is £1 per head, or £5 per family, about 1,000,000 acres of arable land worth 10s. per acre, or £500,000 a year in all, would be required to raise these holdings to a valuation of £10, which is the measure of a "small holding" adopted in the Land Purchase Act of 1891. As it is not probable that this land could

Need of further funds.

be acquired for less than 38 years' purchase, the price would be £14,000,000. As the Board have been able to purchase only £350,000 worth of untenanted land in the three years since the passing of the Land Act of 1903, it is obvious that unless much more rapid progress can be made, the Board's task will be prolonged indefinitely. The distribution of the Board's annual income for the current year is as follows:—

	£
Administration (see details below),	31,350
Improvement of Estates,	11,323
Technical Instruction—Fisheries and Industries,	13,090
Agriculture,	2,757
Parish Committees,	11,050
Fisheries,	—
Industries,	1,230
Piers and Roads,	2,700
Steamer,	3,100
Subsidies to Steamer Services,	2,000
	<hr/> £86,350

Administrative
charges

The annual charges included under the head of Administration are now estimated as follows:—

	£
Salaries, Outdoor Staff, Estates, Fisheries, Industries, and Works,	7,751
Salaries of Dublin Office,	10,567
Travelling Expenses—Outdoor Staff,	3,650
Do. Head Office and Members of Board,	500
Law Costs and Salaries (including £1,000 for arrears not previously claimed),	5,787
Office Maintenance,	1,235
Printing and Stationery,	1,500
Postage and Telegrams,	1,300
Newspapers and Advertisements,	250
Commission on Postal Orders and Insurance,	380
	<hr/> £31,350

At the conclusion of their letter of 30th April last (see page 20) the Board stated that in their opinion it would be inadvisable to reduce their expenditure on the Parish Committee scheme or on home industries. A further annual expenditure of £4,000 on these schemes would only provide for the most moderate development. The outlay on Fisheries is little more than nominal, and the sum allocated to Piers and Roads is almost at a minimum. There remain only the maintenance of the Board's steamer and the subsidies to steamer services on the coasts. The question of retaining the steamer *Greenisland* was carefully considered last year, and the memo. by the Rev. W. S. Green, dated 28th March, 1906, showed that it would be premature to dispose of the vessel. The loss on the resale of the forty-six estates purchased before the passing of the Act of 1903 works out at 7 per cent. on the price of the land, including the redemption of charges, and it is the opinion of the Board that if the annuities of the purchasing tenants are to be kept within the limit of the annual value of the holdings—a proposition which appears to be beyond question—it will be impossible to deal with very congested estates and the very poor class of landholders to which the Board's operations are confined, at a lower percentage of less than 8 per cent. Eight per cent. on £300,000 worth of land (the lowest annual turn-over which the Board can propose) represents a loss of £24,000 per annum; adding £6,000 a year for industries and some increase of the cost of staff brings the total to £30,000, which is £26,000 beyond the Board's present income. Owing chiefly to the delays which resulted from the changes of procedure introduced by the Act of 1903, referred to in the Board's 14th and 15th Annual Reports, the resale of estates has been checked, and they have now on their hands about £1,500,000 of property, and have made offers for a further £100,000. They must, therefore, endeavour to dispose of at least £400,000 a year for several years, at an estimated loss of over £30,000 per annum, and refrain from purchasing any more tenanted estates for the present unless in very exceptional circumstances.

The circumstances which have enabled the Board to expend such large sums on their estates business during the past three years may call for some explanation. The account given on page 14 of the 14th Annual Report showed that the Board expected to recover from the Land Commission about £60,000 out of a much larger sum expended by them on the improvement of the estates then being re-sold. This sum will enable the Board to meet the loss on estates operations during the current year.

In the past two years they received £12,400 for the refund of the sinking fund portion of the annuity of 4 per cent. which they have been paying on all advances made to them under the Act of 1896, that annuity consisting of 2½ interest and 1½ sinking fund. A gain of £13,800 was also made owing to the Guaranteed Land Stock, representing the Board's debt for the advances referred to, being at a discount of about 9 per cent. when redeemed. In the present year it is estimated that refunds amounting to about £15,000 will be obtained by the redemption of the balance of the Guaranteed Land Stock for which the Board have to account.

F. W. D. MITCHELL.

20th August, 1906.

Board's accounts

now attached, and they desire to obtain similar powers for the collection of all instalments of loans, rent, interest in lieu of rent, or any instalments due to them on the sale of goods to fishermen, farmers and others in cases where the capital has been supplied from the Board's Miscellaneous Fund or from their proposed amalgamated fund.

A clause in the Irish Land Bill now before Parliament proposes to confer on the Irish Land Commission summary powers for the collection of rents, etc., and it is understood that the Department of Agriculture has applied for summary powers for collecting instalments of loans and therefore the present appears to be a favourable moment for submitting the suggestions now made by the Board.

II. The Board's accounts would be much simplified if the three present heads of account:—

Miscellaneous Fund,
Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, and
Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund

were amalgamated by amending the 35th section of the Purchase of Land Act, 1891.

Under section 25 (5) of the Purchase of Land Act, 1891, the two special funds above named must be employed by the Board only in the counties in which they were respectively applicable under previous statutes, the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund being applicable to any of the congested districts excepting Donegal, and the Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund to Donegal only, but during some years past, owing to the large extension of the Board's operations and to the fact that the available capital of the two special funds has been so much reduced, loans have been made out of the Miscellaneous Fund for all counties without distinction, and as regards the separate interests of County Donegal it should be noted that the Board have in recent years expended upwards of £10,000 out of their Miscellaneous Fund for the purchase of boats and gear for the Donegal fisheries, under a new system of repayment out of earnings, instead of issuing loans out of the Sea and Coast Fishery Fund to enable fishermen to purchase boats. In 1893 the sum of £30,000 was drawn from the two special funds, transferred to the Miscellaneous Fund and expended on piers, roads, etc., with the approval of Their Lordships—see copy Treasury letter of 21st February, 1893, No. 2185-93, enclosed.

On the 31st March last the capital of the two funds in question stood thus—

<i>Irish Reproductive Loan Fund.</i>			
Guaranteed Land Stock,		£5,000	
Cash in hand,		1,300	
Outstanding on Loan,		23,997	
			£30,297
<i>Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund.</i>			
Cash in hand,		£5,200	
Outstanding on Loan,		1,666	
			£6,866

The Board's funds being now applied indiscriminately as necessity arises in all parts of the Congested Districts, there appears to be no longer any purpose served by restricting the benefits of the special funds to certain districts as provided by the 35th Section of the Act of 1891.

The Board have lately been advised by counsel that there is nothing to prevent them transferring money from this Miscellaneous Fund to either of the other funds with the object of replenishing the latter and thus obtaining for the recovery of sums loaned the advantage of the summary powers attached to the two special funds, but this procedure would be cumbersome and would not meet the difficulty in regard to the collection of rents or of instalments of loans loaned for agricultural purposes nor would it permit of the amalgamation of all these funds.

Execution of documents.

III. The necessity of obtaining the signature of the Board's trustees* on documents relating to the ownership of land and the signatures of three permanent members of the Board on other documents frequently causes inconvenience to members of the Board and delay in the despatch of business, as explained by the memorandum by the Assistant-Secretary and Accountant now enclosed. These difficulties would be removed if a seal were given to the Board as a Corporate Body, and they hope that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury may be pleased to recommend that the facilities now asked for may be granted.

I have, &c., (Signed), F. W. D. MERRILL.

To the Secretary,
H. M. Treasury.

Enclosure in Letter No. 1.

Treasury Chambers,
21st February, 1893.

GENTLEMEN,

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Micks' further letter dated 6th instant, inviting the sanction of the Treasury to the expenditure of a part of the capital of the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, and the Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund in carrying out the purposes of the second part of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act.

* Section 2 (2) Congested Districts Board Act, 1892.
† Section 24 (3) Act, 1891.

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to state in reply that My Lords agree with the Congested Districts Board in holding that the provisions of Section 35 by which the two Funds are placed at the disposal of the Board for purposes of the Act permit of such an application of the capital of the funds as is now proposed, and they accordingly sanction the expenditure of a sum estimated at £50,000 in the construction of piers, landing places, and roads.

My Lords note that the amount required is stated to be available in securities and cash.

I am, &c.,

(Signed),

FRANK MOWAT.

The Congested Districts Board.

Enclosure in Letter No. 1.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM as to the desirability of giving to the Board the same powers of **RECOVERY OF LOANS** made out of their **ORDINARY INCOME** which they at present possess in connection with the **FISHERY LOAN FUNDS**.

It would conduce to economical administration and more efficient control over expenditure if the three funds at present being administered by the Board were amalgamated. Recovery of Instalments.

This might be done by inserting a clause in the Land Bill, or other Bill, this Session, giving the Board, in regard to their ordinary income, the same powers of recovery of loans and instalments payable under agreements in connection with their various schemes as they at present possess in regard to their Fishery Loan Funds.

These Fishery Loan Funds were placed at the disposal of the Board by section 34 (5) of the Purchase of Land Act, 1891, and can be expended with Treasury sanction on the general purposes of the Board in the several counties to which the funds are at present applicable.

The greater part of the funds, as originally transferred by the Commissioners of Public Works to the Congested Districts Board, have been so expended, but owing to the very useful powers of recovery attaching to them, the Board have thought it desirable to preserve a portion of them for the purpose of making loans. When these funds were first transferred the Board had not these special powers, but the absence of them was found to hamper the Board so much that the Government inserted a provision in the Public Works Loans Act, 1892, conferring on the Congested Districts Board the powers and remedies for the recovery of any money due on foot of loans made out of these funds as were possessed by the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland.

See section 4 Public Works Loans Act, 1892. A copy of this Act and a form of certificate used in pursuance thereof are attached for reference.

When this question was under consideration on a former occasion Mr. Ross-Todd, who was then the Board's Solicitor, prepared a report together with a draft clause for insertion in a Bill to meet the case. A copy of this report and draft clause are annexed.

A reference to the account which is annually submitted to the Auditor-General, as shown in the Board's Annual Report, will illustrate how much the accounts could be simplified if all expenditure and receipts could be accounted for under one general head instead of three as at present.

But apart from the great advantage which this proposal, if adopted, would be in simplifying the accounts, it is important to bear in mind that as the Board now make numerous small loans out of their ordinary income, the absence of these special powers involves in many cases undue expense and inconvenience in collection when legal proceedings have to be taken as explained by Mr. Ross-Todd in his report referred to already.

(Signed),

J. R. O'BRIEN.

6th April, 1893.

Enclosure in Letter No. 1.

STATUTORY POWERS as regards the **RECOVERY OF MONIES** due to the **BOARD**.

7, Dawson-street, Dublin,

26th March, 1893.

Sir,

As regards the recovery of all moneys due to the Board other than arrears on Fishery Loans to which the existing Acts of Parliament apply, the Board cannot at present proceed at Petty Sessions under the "Small Debts Act" unless the amount is under £3, and accrued due within twelve months, and the result is that in such cases proceedings have to be taken in the County Court, where in most cases a witness must attend to prove the case, and if a decree is obtained it has to be lodged with the Sheriff for execution, and the usual result where the amount is small, and the debtor resides in an out-of-the-way place, is that the Sheriff never succeeds in levying the amount due, and unless costs are incurred in obtaining the decree and for the Sheriff's expenses.

The advantage of being able to proceed at Petty Sessions under the "Small Debts Act" is that the Magistrate's Warrant can be placed in the hands of the local police for levying instead of the Sheriff, and the result of the considerable number of Fishery Loan arrears cases in which that course has been adopted by the Board has, I think, been most satisfactory. I return herewith the file sent me.

(Signed),

J. M. ROSE-TODD.

The Secretary,

Congested Districts Board.

Enclosure to Letter No. 1.

MENGRASSEN explanatory of the INCONVENIENCE and DEBATE caused by reason of the Board not being incorporated and given a seal.

Clause 16 of the Land Bill provides that the rents and profits of any land agreed to be purchased by the Land Commission, and arrears of rent due at the date of the purchase agreement, and not remitted by the Land Commission, shall from the date of the agreement be payable to and recoverable by the Land Commission as if they were instalments of purchase monies charged upon the holding.

Under section 20 of the Land Law Act, 1897, a certificate purporting to be under the seal of the Land Commission is evidence that the amount of the annuity stated therein is due to the Land Commission.

This provision dispenses with the necessity of sending down from Dublin to the County Court often at much inconvenience and expense, a witness to prove the debt, as has to be done under the existing law by the Congested Districts Board. The Board have also to prove in Court that the members of the Board who are the plaintiffs in the case, namely Messrs. Kennedy and Wrench, are the trustees of the Board. This is done by producing in Court the certificate of Enrolment of Messrs. Kennedy and Wrench as the Board's trustees. The Board have further to prove that they are owners of the rent and arrears, and entitled thereto, which necessitates the production in Court of the conveyance of arrears and Land certificate of title.

There appears no good reason why similar powers as regards the collection of rents should not be given to the Board as are proposed to be given to the Land Commission under clause 16 of the Bill.

Under section 44 of the Land Law Act, 1896, the Congested Districts Board are authorised to sell "small" holdings direct to the tenants without the intervention of the Land Commission, and for the purpose of collecting the annuities the Board are given the same powers of recovery of instalments as are possessed by the Land Commission.

The Board therefore have these powers already as regards the recovery of the instalments payable in respect of Clare Island and Leonard estates, which they sold direct to the tenants.

If the only objection to be urged against giving the Board the powers now sought for is that they are a temporary body there are two precedents to meet the case, namely, the Church Temporalities Commission and the Land Commission, both of these bodies, though temporary when first constituted, were incorporated and given power to acquire and hold land.

It would greatly facilitate the transaction of business if the Board were incorporated and empowered to hold land instead of having to act as at present through two trustees. Considerable inconvenience has frequently arisen owing to the difficulty of procuring the signatures of both trustees to certain legal documents which can only be signed by them. For instance, stock is held in the Bank of Ireland in the names of the trustees, who are both expected to attend together at the Bank in order to effect a transfer when the stock is being sold. To get over the inconvenience of this requirement, the trustees some time ago gave a power of attorney to the Bank of Ireland to act for them in such cases.

Agreements for the sale of holdings through the Land Commission are also required to be signed by the trustees, and in order to avoid the inconvenience of having to perform so laborious a duty as signing perhaps 200 agreements in a day, as is sometimes necessary in respect of the Dillon Estate, a power of attorney was given by the trustees to the secretary and assistant secretary to act for them.

Certain notices under the Land Law Acts in connection with the management of the Board's estates have also to be signed by the trustees, and serious inconvenience may be caused if any delay occurs in obtaining their signature.

It should also be noted that under the existing statutes there are certain documents, such as the agreement with the Galway Bay Steamship Company, in connection with the steamer service to Arran Island, which have to be signed by three permanent members of the Board and not by the trustees. This requirement also causes inconvenience.

If the Board were given a common seal and were enabled to make an order authorising the Secretary or Assistant Secretary to affix it to certain documents it would greatly facilitate the transaction of business and save the members of the Board much trouble.

The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction are a Corporate Body with an official seal, which can be authenticated by the signature of a member of the Department, or of the Secretary, or some person authorised by the Department, to act for the Secretary. See sections 20 and 31 of the Act of 1829 constituting the Department.

(Signed) J. R. O'BRIEN,
2nd April, 1905.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE TREASURY AS TO BOARD'S ESTIMATES.

9825-05.

Letter No. 2.

Treasury Chambers,
26th August, 1905.

SIR,

1. I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, that they have had before them the further explanations furnished in Sir J. Dougherty's letter of the 24th May last, with enclosure, relative to the estimate of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Congested Districts Board, 1905-6.

2. My Lords have also considered further the important questions as regards the future which the correspondence raises, and they now desire me to make the following general observations:—

3. My Lords read with concern the statement that the Congested Districts Board have up to the present "felt it their duty to purchase every suitable estate offered to them at a reasonable

price, provided that they could see their way to effect a considerable improvement in the condition of the small occupiers."

Treasury letter,
S. S. 95

4. In the first place, the above emanation of the policy of the Board does not seem to take any account of the fact that, so long as there is a limit to the sum which may be raised for land purchase in each year, the amount that can be advanced for purchases by the Board must be restricted by the amounts to be advanced to the other authorities entitled to draw on the Land Purchase Fund.

5. Secondly, it appears to Their Lordships that it is the duty of the Board to see that they do not commit themselves to the purchase of more estates than they can, with their existing resources, improve so far as necessary and dispose of within a reasonable time.

6. My Lords do not feel clear that the Board fully realise this primary obligation which only corresponds to that imposed on any other public Department: indeed, the application for increased borrowing powers, and the figures in the Estimates submitted, suggest to My Lords the question whether the Board have not already committed themselves to the immediate purchase of more estates than, with their existing resources, they can pay for or adequately improve and resell within a reasonable time; and I am to suggest to His Excellency that it should now be laid down that the Board should not enter into agreements for the purchase of any more estates until it appears that the purchase-money can be provided within a reasonable period from the date of the agreements in each case, and until the estates which have already been bought, or agreed to be bought, have been so far disposed of as to make it clear that the Board may safely embark upon fresh transactions.

7. With a view to elucidating the Board's present position, I am to ask for—

(1.) a statement of the value of lands bought and paid for by the Board but still remaining unsold;

(2.) a statement of the respective dates of the agreements prepared by the Land Commission under the provisions of Section 79 of the Irish Land Act, 1903, with particulars of the agreed prices, in cases where the purchase-money has not yet been advanced;

(3.) a similar statement as to any contracts to purchase land which the Board may have entered into, but in respect of which the Agreements have not yet been prepared by the Land Commission;

(4.) An estimate of the expenditure which has been or will have to be incurred for the improvement of the estates and land specified in (1.), (2.), and (3.), distinguishing expenditure on estates and land already bought, and on estates and land which the Board are under contract to buy;

(5.) A forecast of the probable expenditure for purchase of estates during 1904-5, and (say) in each of the following two years, and the estimated expenditure for improvements thereon in each year;

(6.) An estimate of the amount that will be available from the Board's own income, and receipts for expenditure on improvements during those years respectively.

8. Incidentally I am to ask for an explanation on one point of detail in the enclosure to Sir J. Dougherty's letter. The Board state that the purchases agreed on under the Act of 1903 amount to £884,955, and those under former Acts to £383,058; yet the estimate of interest payable to Vendors for the period before the vesting of estates is £16,500 only. My Lords do not understand how it is that the latter estimate is so low; and, with a view to elucidating the matter fully, they would be glad to receive a statement showing, on the one side, the total rental payable by tenants and others to the Board, whether in the form of rent, interest, or otherwise, and, on the other side, the total amounts payable by the Board either to the Land Commission, under Section 43 (3) of the Act of 1896, or for interest to Vendors under the Act of 1903.

Borrowing Powers.

9. In considering this question account should be taken, in the first place, of the fact that the Irish Land Act, 1903, has entirely altered the position. Under Section 72 (3), and the Treasury Regulations thereunder, where the Board have expended money on the improvement of an estate, and, in consequence have sold parcels of that estate at an enhanced price, they can obtain from the National Debt Commissioners repayment of such sums as represent the increase of price consequent on the improvements. My Lords are therefore of opinion that the system of borrowing from the Board of Works in the form sanctioned in 1899 under entirely different circumstances, must now be reconsidered and modified.

10. It appears from the Congested Districts Board's letter to you of 11th January, 1906, that under the system which has hitherto been followed by the Board, the amount to be borrowed in a year has been fixed as two-thirds of an amount arrived at by adding together a number of items classed under "Improvement of Estates," and subtracting therefrom the sum of another set of items classed as "Rents and other Receipts."

Thus, the figures for 1904-5 were:—

(a.) Improvement of Estates.

1. Improvement of works,	£37,453
2. Annual charges, rates, bread rents, &c.,	3,250
3. Land Commission annuities,	12,900
4. Surveys,	2,370
5. Purchase of Live Stock,	3,207
6. Purchase of tenant-right,	2,710
7. Receipts for tenant-right refunded (previously credited to "Rents and other Receipts"),	770
8. Interest payable to vendors of estates,	8,600
Total,	£80,960
	D

(5.) *Rents and other Receipts.*Treasury Letter,
816195.

Rents collectible,	£39,000
Sale of Live Stock,	4,000
Receipts for cattle grazed on lands in hands,	5,000
Total,	£48,000

and two-thirds of the difference (£31,940) was taken as the sum to be borrowed.

11. It will be observed that no distinction has been made between capital expenditure and current expenditure properly chargeable to an income, as distinct from a capital account, and no account has been taken of whether the capital expenditure is repayable or not, or whether the duration of the works is such as to justify a lengthened period of repayment.

12. My Lords trust that they need only point in this way to what must be admitted to be an unsound principle inherent in the present system in order to satisfy His Excellency that a scheme based on more approved principles should be adopted for the future.

13. In Their Lordship's opinion borrowing from the Board of Works should only be allowed for works of continuing utility the cost of which is repayable. Any expenditure on works, &c., which is not recoverable, should be charged to the Board's income, and should not be the subject of borrowing at all.

14. In view of the provision in section 72 (3) of the Act of 1903, it follows that no permanent borrowing from the Board of Works should be allowed; and My Lords will therefore in future only be able to allow the Congested Districts Board to borrow from that Board, temporarily, for the period between the purchase of an estate and its resale when section 72 (3) becomes operative. They must lay it down, therefore, that, on the resale of an estate or parcels of it, any money borrowed from the Board of Works for expenditure on works on the estate, or on those parcels, must be repaid to that Board. The maximum amount that may, when an estate is purchased, be borrowed from the Board of Works for the improvement of the same, should be determined on an estimate to be submitted by the Congested Districts Board of the amount of the improvement expenditure which it is expected will be recovered from tenant-purchasers in the form of enhanced price.

15. There remains the question of the particular purposes for which such temporary borrowing from the Board of Works may be allowed. In Their Lordship's opinion, the only sound principle to act upon will be to decide that the Congested Districts Board shall only borrow for the same purposes as tenants and others can borrow for under the Land Improvement Acts. My Lords cannot therefore admit expenditure on purchase of live stock, on purchase of tenant-right, and for "Roses" as a legitimate subject for borrowing from the Board of Works. Expenditure for such purposes which the Congested Districts Board may see fit to incur should be met out of the ordinary income of the Board. It appears to My Lords also that the cost of Surveys should be charged to staff expenses and should not be met by borrowing. As regards the purposes between which the estimated expenditure of £65,850 for the year 1905-6 is divided, I am to inclose a memorandum prepared by the Board of Works, from which it will be seen that expenditure on "Missing Fences," on Tools and Plant, and for supervision, is only admissible within certain limits. The expenditure on the various purposes (including "Miscellaneous") which would be admissible on the principles shown in the Board of Works memorandum should be separated from the rest; then it should be stated how much of the admissible expenditure is estimated to be repayable and from the estimate of repayable expenditure there should be deducted the amount estimated to be repayable within the year; the remainder would be taken as the basis for deciding how much could be borrowed in any year.

16. My Lords think that, as heretofore, it should be a condition that at least one third of the total capital expenditure (repayable in the form of enhanced price and not so repayable together) for works of improvement properly so called in any year should be provided out of the Board's own funds. But, on the other hand, under the scheme above proposed, the necessity for a limit such as £100,000 for the borrowing would disappear.

17. If, as My Lords hope, His Excellency feels able to accept the scheme above suggested for the future, My Lords are prepared to sanction the Estimates for 1905-6 as now submitted, including the borrowing of £35,520 for improvement of estates, bringing up the total borrowings for that purpose to £90,000.

18. As regards loans to small tenants, I am to say that My Lords think that it should not be necessary in the future to have recourse to the Board of Works to any considerable extent for this purpose; but, if it is shown to be necessary, the limit of £10,000 for "floating capital" for this purpose should be adhered to.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed), G. H. MURRAY.

The Under Secretary,
The Castle,
Dublin.

*Enclosure in Letter No. 2.*Treasury Letter,
818:93.

MEMORANDUM.

As to whether the Purposes mentioned below are Purposes for which Loans would be made by the Board of Works under the Land Improvements Act.

1. "MEASURING FENCES."—Loans for measuring or boundary fences are not made by the Board under the Land Act, 1881, and only under the Land Improvement Act (10 Vic, c. 32), when, other features of a case being satisfactory, the amount to be borrowed is at least £100 and the valuation about £20. Loans are made for fences for shelter and for enclosing newly-reclaimed lands. Fences constructed of iron and steel wire are excluded.
2. ROAD MAKING AND FENCES.—Yes; for the construction of farm roads, including the draining and fencing thereof, which give access from public road to the homestead or farmyard.
3. BUILDINGS.—Yes; for the erection or improvement by means of additions or structural alterations, of farm dwelling-houses and offices, and for the erection or improvement by similar means of labourers' cottages.
4. DRAINAGE.—Yes; for thorough drainage, including the necessary subsequent operations of levelling, claying, and lining. Also for formation or improvement of drains and watercourses.
5. TOOLS AND PLANT.—An addition within certain limits is admissible to all estimates on which the Board's loans are based to cover the cost of tools and plant to be used in the works. Loans are not made, however, for tools and plant as a distinct purpose, or towards the purchase of turning implements.
6. "LOCK SPLITTING."—Lock splitting, as generally understood, merely consists in marking the line of a road or fence or other work by cutting the surface sod—in fact is an operation preliminary to the execution of one of the works just mentioned. The cost of lock splitting would be included in the estimate of the cost of the work in connection with which it is done, but loans are not made for it as a separate purpose.
7. IMPROVEMENTS OF DWELLINGS.—Yes; please see note on 3 above.
8. SUPERVISION.—An addition within certain limits is admissible to all estimates on which the amounts of loans are based to cover the cost of supervision, but, as in the case of Tools and Plant, supervision is not in itself recognised as a purpose for which a loan can be made.
9. PLANTING.—Yes; loans are made towards the cost of planting.
10. PURCHASE OF LIVE STOCK.—No; loans have never been made for such a purpose.

Letter No. 3.

Board's Letter,
9 10 95.

COPY OF REPLY TO TREASURY LETTER DATED 8th AUGUST, 1905.

24th October, 1905.

SIR,—In reply to Sir James Dougherty's letter of the 17th August, enclosing a copy of a letter from the Lands Commissioners of the Treasury dated 8th August, 1905, I am directed by the Congested Districts Board to state, with regard to the amount of land purchased by them, that before the Land Act of 1903 came into force their chief difficulty was to obtain suitable estates at reasonable prices, bearing in mind the prices which the occupiers were generally willing to pay for their holdings, and although the progress made in this part of their work must be admitted to have been very unsatisfactory, the Board think it right to mention that in the earlier stages of their operations they had many legal and administrative difficulties to contend with, as explained in their Annual Reports.

Since greater facilities for purchase were given by the Land Act of 1903, many estates have been offered to the Board and they have overtaken some of the long acres.

The extent of the Board's purchases before and after the passing of the Act of 1903 has been as follows:—

Before the Act of 1903,	171,356 acres, for	£469,016
Under that Act up to the present date	236,490 acres, for	£1,106,338
Totals, . . .	397,765 acres, for	£1,575,349

As nine years have elapsed since the Land Act of 1896 first enabled the Board to obtain advances for the purchase of land, the progress shown in this statement must be regarded as far from satisfactory, and the Chief Secretary for Ireland, when the Land Bill of 1903 was before Parliament, stated repeatedly that it was intended by the provisions of the Bill to enable this Board to work on a larger scale, and in their opinion the purchases by them of little more than

Board's Letter,
9-10-05.

one million's worth of land in a period in which the Estates Commissioners had received applications for upwards of twenty-seven millions for advances under the new Act, would appear to be under a reasonable proportion of the entire purchases, the congested districts containing approximately one-fifth of the number of agricultural holdings in Ireland, and one sixth of the area of the entire country, and being in exceptional need of the purchase and sale operations of the Board. The area of the congested districts is 3,533,199 acres, and the Board have purchased, within the limits of those districts, 332,745 acres, and outside them 55,020 acres.

Being impressed with the urgent necessity of obtaining suitable untenanted land, in order to accomplish what is possible for the relief of congestion, the Board have, since the passing of the Act of 1903, purchased all the suitable untenanted land offered to them at reasonable prices, keeping in view the facts that untenanted lands can be retained in their hands without loss for at least five years and that the Board are empowered by the Act of 1903 to hold such lands up to a total value of one million, paying interest at 2½ per cent. only. Out of a total of 228,499 acres bought under the recent Act, 50,943 acres are untenanted, with a Poor Law Valuation of £11,509 per annum, and represent about £314,000 purchase-money.

With regard to the wants of the Board's Income, I am to state that this is a matter which is constantly kept in mind at their meetings, and they have never during the 14 years since they were established, closed a year without a balance to their credit. At the end of 1904-5 their cash balance was £9,761, and in addition they held £9,225 in Guaranteed Land Stock available for general purposes. After they have agreed to purchase an estate, at least six months must pass before it can be vested in them by the Estates Commissioners, and, as the rents more than cover the outgoings, the Board can gain further time, if necessary, by deferring the improvement works, as they have frequently done in order to keep within their means.

While the Board are of opinion that an increase of their income would enable them to make far better progress with their work, they think that their present financial position is a proof that their estates business has been carried out upon absolutely sound lines. They referred in their Thirteenth Annual Report to the considerable sum which they expected to recover from the Land Commission on the re-sale of estates ready for disposal. The amount recoverable in the present or early in the ensuing financial year is £84,000. The Board were also aware that the settlement of their account with the Land Commission on the re-sale of each estate would in future ensure the quick return of funds invested by them in estates, and the large purchases effected since the passing of the new Act were made with the knowledge that the capital required for the development of the estates in excess of the money available from their own income and that borrowed from the Board of Works would be provided from the source above-mentioned. The loss incidental to the rearrangement and improvement of the whole of the estates bought under the Act in the past two years can thus be met out of the Board's own funds, but when this capital has been exhausted their purchases must be reduced within such narrow limits that the loss incurred in dealing with the estates will not exceed £11,000 per annum, that being the sum available to meet losses on estate operations out of their present fixed income. The loss on the improvement of estates is not likely to be less, in future, than 8 per cent., and therefore the purchases of estates cannot exceed £110,000 annually after the Board's reserve has been exhausted, unless their fixed income is increased. With reference to statement No. VI. enclosed, I am to state that the work done by the Parish Committees, to which the Board grant about £12,000 a year, consisting chiefly of the erection and improvement of dwellings and the erection of out-offices, is identical with work the Board have to carry out on their estates.

The total price at which all the estates purchased before the passing of the new Act have been or will shortly be sold is £435,565, or excluding the three earliest purchases, the French, Clive Island, and Leonard Estates, bought and improved by means of the Board's own funds, and long since re-sold, the realizable value is £413,940. Sale agreements have been signed or the sales completed for £486,714 out of that total, and the Board's debt to the Land Commission for advances in connection with those estates was:—

Guaranteed Land Stock	£302,797
Deduct for Sinking Fund paid by Board	25,000
	£277,797
Add outstanding Debt to Board of Works on these estates,	52,761
	£330,558

leaving a balance of £22,382 owing to the Board on the sale of these estates, after repaying the entire sum borrowed for purchase or improvement. Deducting from £22,382 £18,000 yet to be paid in connection with these estates the capital to be recovered is £4,382, and it should be noted that the debt to the Land Commission has already been covered by the tenants' agreements lodged. It is anticipated that all the holdings on the estates above referred to will be sold before the end of the present financial year, or only in the following year, and the Board are now ready to prepare for sale the properties bought under the new Act.

The prices of the estates purchased during the past fifteen months amounted to £738,973, but this sum includes the cost of over 40,000 acres of untenanted land which would be value for fully one-third of the total purchase prices. There is also included £262,215 for the purchase of the De Freyne and Murphy estates, which were regarded as specially important and urgent.

The eighth paragraph of Their Lordship's letter refers to the estimate of £16,500 for interest payable to vendors of estates in the current year, and I am to explain that the statement marked D, forwarded with the Board's letter of 20th May last, shows that a further sum of £8,000 was provided for interest payable for the De Freyne estate, making £24,500 in all. Owing, however, to the total expenditure on the Estate Improvements Account, £128,262, being in excess of the funds available, it was reduced to £190,262, and this reduction was intended to be made on the item of £63,880 for estate works, as the other items of charge were irreducible. This is in accordance with the Board's letter transmitting the estimates, in which they stated that no pro-

Board's Letter,
2:10. 08.

vision was made for improvement works on estates not yet purchased. No definite estimate of interest could be made, but the rents receivable would in any case more than cover the outgoings.

As regards the distinction between expenditure chargeable to capital and expenditure chargeable to income, the Board desire to point out that they have treated all expenditure on estates as being repayable by the tenants, any deficiency being written off against the Board's income. The security for the borrowed capital is not affected, as it is charged by mortgage deed on the Church Surplus Grant, not on the estates.

With reference to the borrowing of money from the Board of Works for the improvement of estates, the system hitherto adopted, of borrowing two-thirds of the net expenditure after deducting total receipts from total payments appeared to the Board to indicate very fairly the amount which they might expect to borrow, after devoting as much as possible of their own funds to the purpose. The Board, in their letter of 11th January last, to which the Leeds Commissioners of the Treasury refer, suggested that they should be allowed to borrow two-thirds of the actual expenditure on improvements instead of two-thirds of the difference between receipts and payments, and the Leeds Commissioners wrote on the 18th January that "they could not accept the principle of calculation proposed, as it might enable the Board to borrow more than was necessary."

The Leeds Commissioners of the Treasury appear to be under the impression that the system adopted has enabled the Board to borrow too large a sum, but the facts are as follows:—On the estates included in the total of £612,940 above mentioned, the Board borrowed only £56,335, after expending on them:—

For purchase (where the Land Commission made no advance),	£5,900
For redemption of charges,	24,980
For purchase of tenants' interests,	25,753
On permanent improvements,	105,424
Total,	£160,060

The permanent improvements excluded £28,094 for cost of supervision, surveys, tools, plant, book-keeping, &c., and were as follows:—

Mearing fences,	£13,021
Road-making,	24,389
Buildings,	48,700
Drainage,	19,385
House improvement,	1,792
Planting,	1,837
	£100,424

Two-thirds of this total of £160,424, spent on improvement works of an undoubtedly permanent character, is £72,948, while the Board borrowed only £56,335, although they had to pay £87,836 for other necessary charges and expenses. The system now proposed by Their Lordships would, therefore, be quite convenient to the Board, but they beg to draw attention to the urgent necessity of allowing them to borrow money for the purchase of tenants' interests (after they have acquired the fee), for the purchase of land from tenant-purchasers and of land offered for sale by public auction. The policy of the Land Purchase Acts during the past nine years has been to provide them with the funds for acquiring land, and as the Land Commission cannot make advances for the purposes mentioned, it would seem most reasonable that the Board should be enabled to borrow from that Department which is authorised to supplement the advances made by the Land Commission by lending the capital required for the development of the estates, and the Board's privilege of borrowing funds under the Land Act of 1891 could not, in their opinion, be exercised for a more necessary purpose. It is an anomaly that the Board can obtain an advance for both the fee and the occupation interest when purchasing unencumbered land, but if they acquire the fee of a tenanted grass-land they cannot get assistance either from the Land Commission or Board of Works to purchase the occupier's interest, which may be essential to the success of their work. It is also a very serious disadvantage to the Board that when they purchase a farm from a tenant-purchaser who bought under the Land Acts, they cannot obtain an advance from the Land Commission unless the tenant-purchaser happens to be able to pay off the land annuity and sell the farm discharged from it, which he very rarely can do, and the Board consequently have to pay him cash for his interest, and then pay off the annuity, without the power of obtaining any advance from the Land Commission for either of these payments. The Board have at times to invest considerable sums, up to a total of £8,600 or £10,000 in the purchase of cattle for grazing on unencumbered lands, it being impossible in many cases to get the neighbouring farmers to send their cattle to graze on the Board's lands. It is anticipated that from the re-sale of estates the Board will have sufficient capital of their own to purchase the cattle after the present year.

They have no desire to borrow permanently from the Board of Works; on the contrary they appreciate the necessity in their own interests of at once repaying to that Department any capital released by the re-sale of an estate. When the Land Bill of 1903 was before Parliament a suggestion was made on behalf of the Board that their account with the Land Commission might be closed after the re-sale of each estate, and a similar settlement with the Board of Works is a necessary consequence of the adoption of this suggestion.

The Board understand from Their Lordships' letter that there will be no objection to their borrowing in future two-thirds of the estimated cost in each year, on each estate, of the following classes of permanent improvements:—

- Mearing fences (wood and stone).
- Roads.
- Buildings.
- Drainage.
- Planting.

Board's Letter,
9:10:05.

With reference to the cost of surveys I am to state that as the Board regard this expenditure as repayable by the tenants they would prefer to include cost of surveys in the Improvements Account, rather than to charge it to administration.

An estimate of the total expenditure on each estate, and of the sum required in the financial year under each of these heads, will be furnished to the Board of Works, and this Board will undertake that if the amount borrowed for these purposes be not recovered from the tenants, on the re-sale of the estate, their own funds will bear the loss.

The Board are pleased to learn that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have conditionally sanctioned their estimates for the current year, and they trust that Their Lordships will favourably consider the suggestions now offered in regard to the arrangements for borrowing capital, and will accept them as being consistent with the conditions laid down in their letter of the 8th August.

The financial statements called for are submitted herewith.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed), F. W. D. MITCHELL.

To the Under Secretary,
Dublin Castle.

20040-05

Letter No. 4.

4299.

Treasury Chambers,
28th February, 1906.

Sir,

Treasury Letter,
28:2:06

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to state that They have carefully considered the letter of the Congested Districts Board dated 9th October (enclosed by direction of the Lords Justices in Sir J. Dougherty's letter—21413—of 26th October), furnishing the explanations for which My Lords had asked with reference to the Board's land purchase transactions, and replying to the proposal made in the Treasury letter of the 8th August last, with regard to the conditions under which, and the purposes for which, the Board shall in future be allowed to borrow from the Board of Works.

My Lords will deal first with that part of the Congested Districts Board letter which relates to the latter subject. Their Lordships are glad to observe that the Board accept the proposal of this Department, the main features of which are:—

(1.) That the Board should be allowed to borrow from the Board of Works for the same purposes only as tenants and others can borrow from that Board under the Land Improvement Acts.

(2.) That the maximum amount to be so borrowed should not be subject to the limit of £100,000 floating capital hitherto imposed, but should be determined (a.) on an estimate for each estate to be submitted by the Congested Districts Board to the Board of Works of the improvement expenditure which it is expected will be recovered from tenant purchases in the form of enhanced price, and (b.) subject to the further condition that at least one-third of the total capital expenditure (whether recoverable in the form of enhanced price or not so recoverable) for works of improvement properly so called in any year should be provided out of the Board's own funds.

(3.) That, on the re-sale of an estate, any money borrowed from the Board of Works for expenditure on improvements on the estate should be repaid to that Board, any amount by which the sum recovered on resale falls short of the amount borrowed being made good out of the Congested Districts Board's own funds.

It is further understood—

(4.) That any gains which the Congested Districts Board may be able to make through the exercise of their power to lodge Guaranteed Land Stock (bought at the price of the day), and not cash, in redemption of advances under the Act of 1896, shall be credited to the improvement fund.

It remains to consider—what was not dealt with in the Treasury letter of 8th August last—the question what payments are to be made to the Board of Works while an estate is in process of being resold and before it is completely disposed of.

My Lords assume that, as appears to be contemplated by Section 72 (3) of the Act of 1903, an estate should, as a rule, be disposed of within five years from the date of its purchase. But no doubt there will be cases in which, while the bulk of the estate will be sold within such a period, some particular parcels may remain undisposed of for some time afterwards. In such cases My Lords think that, however long particular parcels of an estate may remain in hand, arrangements must be made that in any case no part of the loan outstanding in respect of improvements on that estate should remain unpaid after twenty years from the date of the first instalment of the advance, twenty years being now the maximum period for loans at the lowest rate of interest chargeable for local loans.

My Lords think, therefore, that the best plan for regulating repayments to the Board of Works will be the following:—

(1.) Interest will be charged at the lowest rate in force, for the time being, for Local Loans.

(2.) A half-yearly account should be made up on 1st May and 1st November in each year showing, as regards each estate on which improvement money has been advanced by the Board of Works, what portions of the estate have been resold in the half-year ending on the

date of the account, and how much of the money advanced has been spent on the portions re-sold in that half-year. During, say, the first six years from the first advance of improvement money in respect of a particular estate the Congested Districts Board should pay to the Board of Works, on the date of each half-yearly account, the principal sum so shown to have been spent on the lands sold during the half-year, with interest on the amount of advances outstanding on the date of the previous account.

(3.) At the end of six years from the first advance for improvements on a particular estate, the Congested Districts Board should furnish an account showing how much of the principal advanced for that estate is still outstanding.

(4.) A half-yearly repayment of principal should then commence calculated to repay that balance within twenty years from the date of the first advance (interest being payable, as before, half-yearly, on the amount of principal outstanding from time to time), but the Congested Districts Board should have the option at any time of repaying the principal outstanding in one sum; and, as in most cases, the amount outstanding in respect of an estate at the end of the six years would be small, the Congested Districts Board would, no doubt, generally find it convenient to pay off the whole at the expiration of the six years.

My Lords have given Their best consideration to the request of the Congested Districts Board that they may be allowed to borrow from the Board of Works for the purchase of tenants' interests (after they have acquired the fee) and for the purchase of land from tenant purchasers and of land offered for sale by public auction, but they regret that they do not feel able to assent to this proposal because, it would be inconsistent with the principle laid down to govern the new system of loans that the Congested Districts Board should only be allowed to borrow for the purposes for which tenants and others can now borrow.

With reference to the mode of charging the cost of Surveys in connection with improvement works, I am to say that My Lords will not object to such cost being regarded as repayable by tenants and included in the Improvement Account, on the understanding that money will not be borrowed from the Board of Works for this particular purpose.

My Lords pass to the more general question of the rate of progress of the Congested Districts Board's land purchase transactions.

The Board, in the first place, appear to consider that £1,106,333 of purchases by them under the Act of 1903 up to the 31st October is less than a reasonable proportion in comparison with twenty-seven millions of applications for advances altogether. On this I am to say that it does not appear to Their Lordships that any such arithmetical proportion properly illustrates the position. The figures appealed to by the Board are open to obvious criticism. Direct sales in Congested Districts are left out of account, and purchases by the Congested Districts Board alone are compared, not with the total of purchases of estates by the Estates Commissioners, but with the total of those purchases together with direct sales by landlords to tenants. Nor can My Lords admit any comparison based on the fact that one-fifth of the number of agricultural holdings in Ireland are in the Congested Districts, and the area of the Congested Districts (3,533,199 acres) represents one-sixth of the area of the whole country. My Lords believe that of the 3,533,199 acres stated by the Board to be the area of the Congested Districts, something like 1,435,000 acres at least are represented by barren mountains, water, roads, and other land of a wholly unsuitable and unprofitable character for purchase, improvement, and resale. But, even if the necessary deduction on this account were made from the area of the Congested Districts, and from the area of the whole country respectively, the result would not afford any real criterion for the comparison suggested.

If it were necessary, for the purpose of argument, to find some proportion, it occurs to My Lords that the fairest would be obtained by comparing the valuations of the Congested Districts area with that of the whole of Ireland, inasmuch as the probable purchase price would represent some approximately constant number of years' purchase of the valuation. My Lords believe that the valuation of the Congested Districts area is about £571,000, as compared with about £10,600,000 for the whole of Ireland. This represents a proportion of something less than one-seventeenth; but even this comparison would require qualification, because allowance would have to be made, on the one side, for cases where the Board find it necessary to buy land outside the Congested Districts area, and, on the other, for cases of direct sales in that area without the intervention of the Board.

But, as above stated, My Lords think that no arithmetical proportion can usefully be laid down, since the main question is, at what rate (subject to the limit of the sums that it may be possible to allocate out of the Irish Land Purchase Fund) can the Board buy estates or unimproved lands, consistently with their being able, with their existing resources, to improve them so far as necessary, and to dispose of them within a reasonable time, say the five years contemplated in Section 72 (3) of the Act of 1903.

My Lords observe from the letter under reply that the present position is as follows:—The Board have bought £1,106,333 worth of land under the Act of 1903 up to the date of their letter, and they anticipate that cases under negotiation may require a further expenditure of about £100,000 up to 31st March next, so that at that date they would probably have land in hand, purchased under the Act of 1903, representing about £1,200,000. Towards the improvement of this land the Board expect to have in hand the sum of £54,382 (in respect of capital to be recovered from the Land Commission) before or soon after the 31st March, 1906, and they anticipate that, with the help of the balance of this sum, after setting aside a certain sum for the purchase of cattle for grazing on unimproved lands in hand, they will be able to deal with the £1,200,000 in hand, and with further purchases to the extent of £200,000 in each of the years 1906-7 and 1907-8, but that after that period their income will only enable them to deal with purchases to the extent of £140,000 a year.

These are most important figures, and, as My Lords cannot contemplate a proposal for increasing the fixed income of the Congested Districts Board, they clearly furnish a necessary limit within which, if the financial position is to remain sound, purchases during each of the next two years must be restricted.

Treasury Letter,
28. 2. 26.

But My Lords consider that there is grave reason to doubt whether it will be safe at present to contemplate further commitments in 1906-7 and 1907-8 even to the extent of £300,000 in each year. They observe that in Statement No. V. attached to their letter the Board estimate the expenditure on improvements in each of the two years as follows:—

	£
On the £1,300,000 worth of estates in hand,	60,000
On estates to be purchased (taken at £300,000 in each of the years 1906-7 and 1907-8),	25,500
	<hr/> £85,500

But I am to point out that these figures are only correct, on the assumptions made, for 1906-7, as in 1907-8 the expenditure would be:—

	£
On the £1,300,000,	60,000
Second half of the expenditure on estates worth £300,000 bought in 1906-7,	22,500
First half of expenditure on £300,000 worth bought in 1907-8,	22,500
	<hr/> £105,000

Of these sums at least one third would (under the existing rule) have to be provided out of the Board's income, i.e., £27,500 in 1906-7 and £35,000 in 1907-8. But it will be necessary also to provide out of the Board's own funds the £25,000 estimated to be required for the purchase of tenants' interests and of tenant purchasers' farms, which cannot be borrowed. Although My Lords do not know over how many years the £25,000 can be spread, it will apparently increase considerably the amount to be provided out of the Board's own funds in the years 1906-7 and 1907-8.

Again My Lords cannot but feel some doubt whether an amount of land representing as much as £1,300,000 involving the expenditure of such large sums on improvements, is not more than can be administratively dealt with at one time by the Congested Districts Board, in view of the fact that a large increase of temporary staff would presumably be necessary for the purpose, which it would be difficult to separate, pay and control.

On the grounds, therefore, as well of the difficulty of administration as in the interests of safe finance, My Lords would urge His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant to use his influence with the Board to induce them to refrain from committing themselves to any purchases in 1906-7 until the Estimates of the Board's income and expenditure for that year can be prepared and considered by this Department.

My Lords would also express the hope that the Board will, even as regards lands for the purchase of which they are now negotiating, proceed cautiously, and take up for the present only the most urgent cases included in the estimate of the further expenditure of £100,000 up to the 31st March next.

My Lords are glad to observe that the Board's attention is now mainly directed to cases where there is urgent need for obtaining additional untenanted land for the purpose of enlarging uneconomic holdings. Their Lordships admit the importance of this work, and they are far from wishing to interpose any unnecessary obstacle to its progress. It is purely in the interest of the sound administration of the Board's finances that they made their present suggestion that there should be a temporary suspension on further commitments to purchases of tenanted estates until the Estimates for 1906-7 have been considered, and it is possible to make a safer forecast of the financial position in the next few years; and they do not consider that the suggestion is inconsistent with the declaration of the then Chief Secretary in the debates on the Bill of 1903, as to the intention that the Congested Districts Board should be enabled to work on a larger scale. It is clear that it could not have been contemplated that the Board's operations should be enlarged and accelerated to an extent beyond that represented by the ratio of their resources, as increased by the Bill, to their previous resources; and, so far as regards the Board's fixed income, the increase then made was only the moderate proportion of £30,000 per annum upon the previous £68,250, or about 30 per cent. The ratio of the 226,609 acres bought for £1,106,533 in two years from the passing of the Act of 1903 to the 171,356 acres bought for £469,016 in the years before the Act of 1903 appears to Their Lordships to represent an increase far beyond the proportion of the increase of the Board's resources. Moreover the period within which it was estimated that the transfer of land over the whole of Ireland under the Act of 1903 might be effected was from 15 to 30 years; and My Lords are nothing unreasonable in the operations in Congested Districts under the same Act being extended over a similar period.

My Lords feel sure that His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant will share Their desire (1.) that the Board should henceforth proceed with great caution until the possibility of their improving and enlarging the very small holdings on the Estates which the Board may acquire in the Congested Districts, to an extent which may make it practicable for the occupier and his family to subsist thereon even in moderate comfort, is made clear, and (2.) that, as regards the immediate future, the Board should not commit themselves to further purchases until the possibility of disposing of the large amount of land in hands in the next few years is demonstrated by the Estimates which they will be able to submit for the coming years.

My Lords have emphasised, under (1.) of the preceding paragraph, the necessity that the Congested Districts Board should above all devote itself to cases where uneconomic holdings can be turned into really economic holdings, because Their Lordships fear that it is not sufficiently realised that the Congested Districts Board was established, not as a Purchase and Sale Department, i.e., for the mere purpose of facilitating the transfer of the ownership of land from the landlord to the tenant, but for the special purpose of amalgamating small holdings and relieving congestion.

My Lords have before them the Thirteenth Report of the Congested Districts Board, on pages 118 to 123 of which are given particulars of the holdings enlarged by the Board on a section of the Dillon Estate. Apparently 149 holdings, at rents averaging about £4 2s. 8d. per annum, have been turned into the same number of rents averaging about £5 10s. per annum. My Lords would ask whether it is not the case that the great majority of these holdings after resale remain absolutely uneconomic, and whether the transactions as a whole have any other effect than to encourage persistence on the part of the occupiers in an attempt to live under impossible conditions. The same considerations are suggested by pages 14 to 40 of the Land Commission Return of Advances for 1904-5 (House of Commons Paper 3068), from which it appears that the individual advances have generally been small, and in a number of cases actually less than £20.

My Lords do not doubt that the question of so restricting the area of the operations of the Board that no estate or untenanted land may be bought unless there is a certain prospect of manipulating the holdings so as to make them really economic, will receive the serious consideration from His Excellency that it deserves; and they trust that in the meantime he will see his way to act upon their suggestions as to the restriction of further commitments to purchase.

My Lords have a further suggestion to make which, they hope, will convince His Excellency that, so far from wishing to interpose unnecessary difficulties in the exercise by the Congested Districts Board of its legitimate functions, they are anxious to help them to the utmost extent compatible with the principle above contended for. At present it is the rule that one-third of the money spent upon improvements must be found out of the Congested Districts Board's own income, and only two-thirds borrowed from the Board of Works. If His Excellency and the Congested Districts Board would agree that, along with the Board's Estimates for any year, there should be submitted to the Treasury an estimate of the maximum amount to be asked for (subject to its being possible to allocate that amount out of the Irish Land Purchase Fund) for the purchase by the Board of Estates or untenanted land in the year, and that this estimate, like the Board's Estimates of income and expenditure, when once approved by the Treasury, should not be exceeded without the sanction of My Lords, they would be prepared to withdraw the condition as to the expenditure of one-third of the improvement money out of the Board's own funds, and to allow the whole of the recoverable expenditure on such improvement works as those for which the Board of Works could lend to other borrowers under the Land Improvement Acts, to be borrowed from that Board. It is clear that this arrangement would set free considerable sums otherwise chargeable on the Congested Districts Board's own funds, which could then be applied to the other purposes of purchasing tenants' interests, tenant purchasers' farms, &c., and of meeting losses.

My Lords now sanction, in connexion with the Board's Estimates for 1905-6, the borrowing of £33,320 for Improvement of Estates, bringing up the total borrowings for that purpose to £10,000. My Lords will cause a further communication to be addressed to you with reference to the latest revise of the Estimates for 1905-6 enclosed in Sir J. Donaghy's letter (1906) of 1st December last.

They propose, for the concurrence of His Excellency, that the new system of borrowing, described above, shall come into operation on 1st April, 1906, and that the Estimates for 1906-7 should be prepared on that basis.

I am, &c.,

(Signed), G. H. MURRAY.

The Under Secretary,
Dublin Castle.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD FOR IRELAND.

Letter No. 5.

23, Rutland-square,
Dublin, 30th April, 1906.

Sir,

I am directed by the Congested Districts Board to state that they have carefully considered the letter of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, dated 26th February, and that they desire to make the following remarks with reference to it:—

In connection with the repayment of loans made to the Board by the Board of Works, the Treasury propose the preparation of a half-yearly account showing the expenditure on the portion of any estate sold. Having considered this proposal, the Board think it unacceptable, as the accounts cannot be kept in the required sub-divisions, and they trust that the proposal will not be pressed by the Treasury.

The Board greatly regret the denial to them of liberty to borrow from the Board of Works for the purchase of tenants' interests. The purchase of these interests is an absolutely essential part of the Board's remedial system, and without the purchase of such interests it is frequently impossible to enlarge holdings in the most congested areas. If the Treasury prohibition is persisted in, the Board will be driven to find from their own funds the money necessary for the purchase of tenants' interests, until they are recouped for their expenditure on these purchases by the resale of the holdings. That means a great curtailment in the continuity of their work, and reduction of their power for good in other directions. The Board earnestly hope that this matter may be reconsidered by the Treasury. By way of illustration it may be said here that in the current financial year a sum of £38,000 appears on the Estimate under the heading for the purpose in question, and the unavoidable allocation of that sum will seriously reduce the funds which the Board had hoped to appropriate to estate improvement during the coming three years.

The Treasury letter appears to be intended as a general and deprecating criticism of the Board's financial administration, and I am, therefore, to submit the following facts for the consideration of the Government. Before the Act of 1903 came into operation the Board had purchased 171,356 acres of land for £557,335, including redemption of Head Rents, &c. Of this

Treasury Letter,
25:9:04.

Treasury Letter,
20:4:06.

Board's Letter,
29. 4. 06.

land 140,000 acres have since been re-sold to the tenants, and it is expected that the remainder will be disposed of in the current year. Upon improvement of the land above-mentioned and other disbursements, the Board have already expended a sum of £318,031, and in the current year proposed to expend the sum of £10,557, making, with the other expenditure, a total of £328,588, or, deducting receipts, a net expenditure of £127,045. The Board have sold, or are in process of selling, these properties for a sum of £244,610, thus showing a loss of only £29,670 on the entire transactions carried out before the Act of 1903 came into operation. This loss is at the rate of less than 7 per cent. on the cost of the land, including the redemption of head rents (£87,095) and purchase of tenants' interests (£28,089).

If regard be had to the fact that the Board was not only improving land but building up a society by the operations indicated in the preceding figures, it is abundantly clear that these operations were financially successful. But it is also clear that the operations were not such as to make a very serious impression on the land problem of the West. In fact they only touched its fringe, and far wider operations were needed to affect its substance.

These operations were undertaken when the Land Purchase Act of 1903 became law. From that time until the 31st March the Board bought 250,941 acres of land for £1,196,321. Owing to the delay which has hitherto marked the procedure of the Land Commission in vesting estates, the Board have been able in only a few of them to carry out their programme of improvements in these lands, while they have made no re-sales. The time has, therefore, not yet arrived to judge of the Board's success in these larger operations, but it will be noted from the estimate for the current year which accompanies this letter that provision is made for a large expenditure on improvements. But that expenditure will very greatly deplete the Board's funds, and reduce their power of effective action in the succeeding year for the following two reasons:—

- (1.) The repayment by the Land Commission of money due to the Board will be on a very much smaller scale.
- (2.) The cessation after the current year of refunds due to the redemption of Guaranteed Land Stock advanced under the Act of 1896.

If, therefore, the Board be limited to the funds which they can provide out of their present income, it is perfectly clear that their operations must be largely curtailed.

In the Treasury letter under reply a curtailment to £140,000 per annum is suggested; but the Board desire to state that any such curtailment, while it would postpone almost indefinitely the completion of their task and add largely to the ultimate cost of administration, would be incompatible with the timely solution of the problem committed to them. The relief of congestion in the West of Ireland is the problem with which they have to deal. It is admitted that up to the passing of the Act of 1903 their powers to deal with that problem were very limited. Within the last two years greater progress has been possible, and in the public interests it is essential that adequate means for continuing the present rate of progress shall be provided. It is only by extensive purchase of unencumbered land, and by the acquisition of congested estates on a large scale that the problem before the Board can be solved. If the Board do not in the immediate future buy the unencumbered lands near and in the congested districts they will be sold under the Act of 1903, and all hope of relieving congestion through such lands will pass away. From this point of view the suggestion made by the Treasury that, after the lands now in the Board's hands have been dealt with, their operations should be restricted to purchases extending only to £140,000 a year, is tantamount to reducing the Board to impotence for all substantial purposes of their creation. That suggestion, I am to inform the Government, is wholly unacceptable to the Board. The country has been promised that the problem of the West would be energetically dealt with, and the Board upon whom the inhabitants of the congested districts with some reason have come to rely for the necessary help to ameliorate their economic condition, have been led to expect the means for largely extending its remedial activity. But a careful consideration of the resources at the Board's disposal satisfies them that unless their fixed annual income is immediately increased by at least £20,000, they cannot attempt to meet the obligations imposed on them with hope of success. In the Board's opinion, the aim should be to dispose of an estate within three years of its acquisition, and they do not think it wise to hold property at any time to a larger amount than a million sterling. This means that the Board should deal with property of the value of about £300,000 a year. The Board believe that an addition of at least £30,000 to their permanent income is essential to enable them within a reasonably short period to deal with the problem of congestion in the West in a fairly satisfactory manner. The Board have already communicated to the Government their views regarding compulsory purchase of unencumbered lands for the purpose of the relief of congestion.

In conclusion a few words are called for regarding sales by the Board of holdings while in a "non-economic" condition.

Their Lordships suggest that the Board should purchase "no estate or unencumbered land unless there is a certain prospect of manipulating the holdings so as to make them really economic."

Statistics recently prepared for the Board show that to carry out Their Lordships' suggestion in the Congested Districts, or in other words to raise the average valuation per head of the landholders in the Congested Districts from 20s. 4d., as it was in 1891, to an average of 40s., about 1,000,000 acres of land of the annual value of about £550,000 would be required. The price of the five-shilling of unencumbered lands of the annual value of £350,000, would exceed £14,000,000. The bare mention of that enormous sum should satisfy the Government of the impracticability of the Treasury suggestion. The Board are fully alive to the necessity of enlarging all small holdings, and this forms a cardinal point in their administration. But there are sufficient reasons for knowing that a measure of relief short of making every holding "economic" does effect a vast improvement in the condition of the country and the people. For example, by raising the value of holdings from £4 to even £6, as has been done generally on the Dillen Estate, to which the Treasury letter specifically refers, a very great measure of relief has

NOTE.—An erroneous comparison is made in the Treasury Letter between the old rents and the future land purchase acquisition. If the rental value of the new holdings is taken, it will be found that the holdings were increased from an average of £4 2s. 5d. to an average of £5 5s.

been given these people, and very many of them under the inducement of proprietorship have been secured the opportunity of improving their holdings up to an economic standard through the application of family labour.

Board's Letter
29 : 4 : 06.

Moreover, the Board attach great importance to cottage industries as a means of adding to the resources of the small farmers, and are anxious that their expenditure for these purposes, and for the improvement of agricultural holdings, by means of the Parish Committee system, should rather be increased than diminished in the future, when this is practicable in connection with the administration of the Department of Agriculture. As an illustration of the extent to which the incomes of small occupiers can be increased by the industries referred to, it may be stated that the money earned in the past year by the girls in eight of the Board's Lace and Crochet Classes, in County Mayo, exceeded considerably the total annual Poor Law Valuation of the seven electoral divisions in which the Classes were held. The total annual earnings of the Board's Lace and Crochet Classes now amount to over £31,000, which is a very substantial addition to the means of the people in Congested Districts.

The Estimates for the year 1906-7 are forwarded herewith for the approval of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed),

F. W. D. MITCHELL.

The Under Secretary,
Dublin Castle.

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Letter No. 6.

Treasury Chambers,

19th June, 1906.

Sir,

I have laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury your letter (5584) of 11th ult., enclosing a letter dated 30th April, from the Congested Districts Board, together with the Board's estimates for 1906-7: and I am directed to reply as follows, for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

Treasury Letter,
19 : 6 : 06.

With reference to that portion of your letter which asks that the permanent income of the Board may be increased by £20,000 per annum, I am to say that, as already indicated in the Treasury letter of the 28th February last (20040/05), my Lords are unable to contemplate any increase in the Board's fixed income.

My Lords regret that, for the reason already stated in the same letter, they must also adhere to their decision that the Board cannot be allowed to borrow from the Board of Works for the purchase of tenants' interests (after they have acquired the fee) and for the purchase of land from tenant purchasers, and of land offered for sale by public auction.

With reference to the estimates for 1906-7, My Lords desire, before approving them, to be furnished with information showing:—

- (1) What was the value of the lands in hand and undisposed of on 31st March, 1906.
- (2) What is the value of the land which the Board contemplate purchasing in the year 1906-7 (subject to its being found possible to allocate to them the amount necessary for advances from the Irish Land Purchase Fund).
- (3) What is the total improvement expenditure necessary for lands in hand on 31st March, 1906, and how much of it (a) was spent up to that date (b) will be spent in 1906-7 (c) will remain to be expended in future years.
- (4) What is the estimated improvement expenditure for lands to be bought in 1906-7 which will have to be incurred (a) in 1906-7 (b) in future years.
- (5) What amount of land is it expected that the Board will be able to dispose of in 1906-7, and how much is expected to be still in hand on 31st March, 1907.

In the meantime, My Lords desire me to signify Their approval of the amended form of Monthly Account (rendered necessary by the Irish Land Act, 1903), which was submitted in the Congested Districts Board's letter to you of 26th January last, and forwarded to this Department in Sir J. Dougherty's letter of 1st February (1906).

As the financial year 1905-6 is now closed, it scarcely seems worth while to discuss further the revised Estimates for that year contained in the same letter from the Board.

My Lords think it best, in the circumstances, to await the figures of actual Receipts and Expenditure for 1906-6.

I am, &c.,

(Signed),

G. H. MURRAY.

The Under Secretary,
Dublin Castle.

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Letter No. 7.

COPY OF LETTER FROM THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD TO THE UNDER SECRETARY, DATED 18TH OCTOBER, 1906.

SIR,—I am directed by the Congested Districts Board to inform you that at their meeting on the 12th instant they considered the letter of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury dated 19th June, forwarded by the Irish Government on the 9th July last.

In reply to Their Lordships' questions in connection with the Board's estimates for the current year, I am to reply as follows:—

(1) The value of the land purchased by the Board and undisposed of on the 31st March, 1906, was £1,262,670, including all the lands purchased under the Irish Land Act of 1903 and the unsold portions of estates bought under previous statutes;

(2) Since the 1st April, 1906, the Board have purchased, or have made offers for the purchase of, land to the value of £184,764. They have decided that they will not, until the result of the Royal Commission on Congestion has been announced, purchase further lands, except such as may be specially suitable for their purposes, and they estimate that £50,000 will cover such special cases.

(3) The total improvement expenditure necessary for the lands in hands on 31st March, 1906, is £215,000, including £38,000 expended before that date; (a) the amount expended on the unsold portions of the older estates cannot be stated separately from the total expenditure on those estates; (b) the sum of £108,000 was estimated to be expended in the current year, but owing to the delay in vesting the estates purchased under the Act of 1903 it is not now anticipated that the full amount of £108,000 estimated for this year will be expended in the year; (c) the sum of £69,000, with any unexpended portion of the sum provided for this year, will remain to be expended in future years.

As, however, a considerable area of untenanted land is included in the estates now in hands, it is not possible to make a very close estimate of the total outlay upon them.

(4) The estimated improvement expenditure on lands bought in the year 1906-7 is £23,000, of which about £2,000 will be expended before 31st March next, leaving £21,000 to be expended in future years.

(5) The Board expect that they will be able to dispose of about £200,000 worth of land in the current year, leaving a balance of £1,062,670 in hands on 31st March, 1907, exclusive of land bought in the current year.

I am to add that the Board have now spent about £34,000 on improvements since the commencement of the current year, and it would be an assistance to them if the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury would be so good as to authorise the Commissioners of Public Works to issue at early date £20,000 out of the total of £72,000 proposed to be borrowed from them in the present year.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) F. W. D. MITCHELL.

The Under Secretary,
Dublin Castle.

Memorandum C.—Relations of the Congested Districts Board with the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

Creation of Department of Agriculture, 1899.

The Act of 1899, establishing the Department, practically excluded its operations from the scheduled districts, and it followed that the Congested Districts Board had to provide for the agricultural and technical needs of these districts. This system of two separate administrations in the two sections of the country might have continued indefinitely but for two disturbing influences. In the first place rates raised under the Department's Act, or under the Technical Instruction Act, could not be confined to the non-congested districts, as the former had to be levied on the county at large, and the latter either on the county at large or on the rural district, while the electoral division is the unit composing the scheduled districts, and the rural district contains several electoral divisions.

Secondly, it was inevitable that when the schemes of the Department and of the Board, differing both in the manner and the degree of assistance given to the people, came to be put in force in neighbouring portions of a county, comparisons would be drawn and requests made to have the most favourable provisions of each scheme applied in districts for which they were not intended. The developments of these two difficulties are explained by the following passages from the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th Annual Reports of the Board:—

Extract from 10th Report, for 1900-1.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

County schemes.

Soon after the creation of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland letters were addressed to us by the Councils of several counties asking whether we would contribute towards the cost of schemes for the improvement of agriculture and for technical instruction. We at once promised to make, for the congested districts of each county, a contribution in aid of the

county rate, equivalent to the contribution to be made in respect of the non-congested areas by the Department of Agriculture, which we are informed will be at the rate of 25s. for every 20s. levied by the county. This grant by the Department applies only to the present year, and to counties containing congested districts.

It is provided by the 19th Section of the Act constituting the Department that no portion of the funds raised by a rate for the purposes of the Act shall be expended without the approval of the Department. We have arranged that all schemes contributed to by taxation in congested districts and supported by contributions from our Board shall be submitted to us. We will then enter into all necessary communication with the Department of Agriculture and the amounts which we contribute, when the schemes have been approved, shall be paid by us to the County Councils direct.

It was apparent from the outset that agricultural schemes applicable to the non-congested portions of counties, where no work of the kind had hitherto been carried on, would not be applicable to the congested districts, where our live stock and other schemes have been in operation for years, and in preparing schemes for the congested and non-congested areas, respectively, in each county, a difficulty was caused by the impossibility of grouping the rural districts under one or other of these heads, some of the rural districts containing both congested and non-congested electoral divisions. A compromise was finally arrived at by which rural districts consisting principally of scheduled electoral divisions were treated for this purpose as though they were wholly congested, and conversely rural districts which are mainly non-congested were treated as being wholly non-congested.

The rates struck for the purpose of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in the several counties containing congested districts were as follows:—

COUNTY.	Rate.	Act under which Rate was struck.	Whether District or County-at-large Charge.
Clare, ...	1	1880 and 1891, ...	County-at-large.
Cork, ...	1	" " ...	"
Donegal, ...	1	" " ...	"
Galway, ...	1	" " ...	Districts mainly non-congested.
Kerry, ...	1	" " ...	"
Leitrim, ...	1	1890, ...	County-at-large.
Mayo, ...	1	1880 and 1891, ...	"
Monaghan, ...	1	1890, ...	"
Sligo, ...	1	1880 and 1891, ...	"

NOTE.—The above Acts are the Technical Instruction Acts of 1880 and 1891, and the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act of 1890.

The funds so raised are, under the 19th Section of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act of 1890, to be expended in accordance with schemes approved by the Department of Agriculture. In two of these counties, Mayo and Cork, the County Councils did not this year allocate any portion of the rate to live-stock schemes. In aid of the live-stock schemes approved for the Counties of Galway, Kerry, Leitrim, Sligo, and Donegal we made grants equivalent to those made by the Department of Agriculture at the rate of 25s. for every 50s. raised by the county. These grants for live-stock schemes amounted in all to £135 6s., as shown by the following Table:—

STATEMENT OF GRANTS IN AID OF APPROVED LIVE-STOCK SCHEMES VOTED BY THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD in the year ending 31st March, 1901, for the benefit of Electoral Divisions scheduled as Congested, but situated in Rural Districts in which most of the Electoral Divisions are not so scheduled.

COUNTY.	Rural Districts in which all or the greater number of the Electoral Divisions are not scheduled as Congested.	1st. Rate on Congested Electoral Divisions included in Column 2.	Proportion of Rate on Congested Electoral Divisions applicable to Live Stock Schemes.	Amount contributed by Congested Districts Board, being at rate of 25s. for every 50s. of Local Contribution.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Galway, ...	Ballinasloe, ... Longford, ... Cork, ... Portlanna, ... Mount Bellew, ... Tenn, ...	54 0 0	18 0 0	22 10 0
Kerry, ...	Killarney, ... Listowel, ... Tralee, ...	156 0 0	46 0 0	57 10 0
Leitrim, ...	All, ...	160 0 0	70 0 0	86 15 0
Sligo, ...	Boyle, ... Dromore West, ... Sligo, ...	51 0 0	27 0 0	33 15 0
Donegal, ...	Stambes No. 2, ... Derry No. 2, ... Stanciarin, ... Letterkenny, ... Ballykannon, ...	50 0 0	19 0 0	23 15 0
			Total.	236 5 0

County Schemes.

The remaining Rural Districts, in which all or the greater number of the Electoral Divisions are scheduled as congested, are—in County Galway, Galway, Oughterard, Glensnaddy, and Clifden; in County Kerry, Cahirciveen, Dingle, and Kenmare; in County Sligo, Tobernanny; and in County Donegal, Dunfurnagh, Glenties, Donegal, Milford, and Inishowen. In respect of these Rural Districts we are prepared where rates have been struck to make similar grants as soon as the schemes for the improvement of live stock have been drawn up by the County Councils and approved by the Department of Agriculture and by ourselves. At the close of the year this had been done only in the case of the five Rural Districts in the County of Donegal.

At the 31st March last we had not made a grant towards the live-stock scheme for the County of Roscommon, as our proportion had not then been calculated.

When schemes for Technical Instruction have been prepared and approved for the various counties we shall be ready to make contributions in aid of the local rates calculated on the valuation of the congested area in the same manner as were the above contributions towards live-stock schemes.

Extract from 11th Report, for 1901-2.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

In all counties where a rate was raised on Congested Electoral Divisions we were prepared, in the year ending 31st March last, to contribute towards the cost of schemes agreed upon by the County Councils and the Department of Agriculture, by adding 25s. to every 20s. levied by rate, and we set aside £5,200 for the purpose; but owing to there being no such schemes put in operation in some counties and to the delay in determining our share of the total expenditure in other cases, the only contribution paid by us in the year was £61 7s. 8d. for the Live-Stock Scheme of the Rural District of Dunfurnagh.

The following table shows the counties in which schemes for the year ending 31st March, 1902, were adopted:—

COUNTY.	Live-Stock Scheme.	Technical Instruction Scheme.
Clare,	Adopted.	Adopted.
Cork,	Nil.	Nil.
Donegal,	Adopted.	Adopted.
Galway,	Adopted.	Adopted.
Kerry,	Adopted.	Nil.
Leitrim,	Adopted.	Adopted.
Mayo,	Nil.	Nil.
Roscommon,	Adopted.	Nil.
Sligo,	Adopted.	Adopted.

The difficulties adverted to in our last Report in connection with the preparation of live-stock schemes for Rural Districts only partially scheduled as congested and on which a local rate had been raised under the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, have not yet been overcome, but after much correspondence the compromise mentioned in last year's Report has been found to be the best provisional arrangement, and for administering these schemes the Rural Districts have been divided between the Department and our Board as follows:—

COUNTY.	Rural Districts administered by the G.A. Board.	Amount of Ld. Rate on portion Congested (Rural).	Rural Districts administered by the Department of Agriculture.	Amount of Ld. Rate on portion Non-congested (Rural).
Cork,	None,	£ s. d. 200 17 0	All,	£ s. d. 4,121 7 0
Donegal,	Dunfurnagh, Glenties, Donegal, Inishowen,	40 2 2 88 19 2 84 3 10 92 11 8	Ballyvaughan, Letterkenny, Milford, Stranorlar,	Nil. Nil. 62 1 4 75 9 0 99 12 0 95 12 0 76 7 0 95 12 0
Galway,	Oughterard, Clifden, Glensnaddy,	66 2 0 71 6 0 44 17 0	Lowglans, Mount Bellew, Portanna, Tuen, Galway,	Nil. 5 8 0 37 25 0 212 3 0 161 16 0 145 15 0 282 2 0 121 3 0
Kerry,	Cahirciveen, Dingle, Kenmare,	322 16 0 31 0 0 85 6 0 54 2 0 50 11 0 50 15 0	Killarney, Lisrara, Tralee,	0 0 5 36 1 3 20 16 8 265 12 10 383 2 7 202 22 6
Leitrim,	None,	196 15 0	All,	575 0 0
Roscommon,	None,	170 4 6	All,	1,088 12 0
Sligo,	None,	159 11 0	All,	658 11 0

In County Mayo no schemes under the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Acts were in operation in 1901-2, but the arrangement made is that such schemes shall, in the current year, be confined to Electoral Divisions which are not scheduled as congested, thus leaving the congested area to be provided for by separate schemes. The amount of 1d. rate on the valuation of the congested portion of the county is £552 9s., and on the non-congested portion £722 17s.

Extract from 12th Report, for 1902-3.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

We have referred in several of our recent Reports to the difficulties which have been experienced by the Department of Agriculture, the County Councils, and our Board in the arrangement of schemes for the expenditure of rates levied on Congested Districts under the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act of 1899. The 18th Section of that Act is as follows:—

"The Department may, at the request of the Congested Districts Board for Ireland, exercise and discharge any of the powers and duties of that Board in or in relation to a Congested Districts County where the expenses thereby incurred are defrayed out of money provided by that Board, or by Local Authorities or from other local sources, but no money placed at the disposal of the Department by this part of this Act shall be applied in or in relation to a Congested Districts County."

All money raised by rates must, under Section 19 (4), be "applied in accordance with the provisions of a Scheme approved by the Department," in any part of Ireland, and as no addition to the funds so raised could be made by the Department of Agriculture, while the Congested Districts are already entitled to anything they could obtain from our Board, it can hardly have been intended that, as a matter of course, rates should be raised in all Congested Districts. It was found, however, when the Act came into operation, that all rates struck under it must be County-at-large charges, and that under the other Technical Instruction Acts a rate could not be struck on a smaller area than a Rural District, so that there were no means of confining the ordinary administration of the Department to the non-congested portions of the country.

Experience has shown that, in addition to the withdrawal of about £3,000 a year from the Board's own schemes, the preparation and consideration of schemes for:—

1. Technical Instruction;
2. Agricultural Instruction;
3. Live Stock;

under the triple control of the Department, the County Council, and the Board, created a volume of correspondence, and caused difficulties and delays which interfered seriously with the business of each of those bodies.

In November, 1902, the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act, 1902, having given power to County Councils to exempt any Electoral Division from a rate under the Acts above referred to, we informed the local authorities that we would not in future make any grants in aid of rates raised under the Act of 1899 on a Congested District, and with the object of redeeming any pledges we had previously made, we voted for each county a contribution at the rate of 2s. for every 20s. collectible by a rate of one penny in the pound on the scheduled area, and we informed the County Councils that this would be our last contribution.

The amounts paid were:—

County Cnrl.	£	s.	d.
Donegal,	248	11	3
" Galway,	351	17	6
" Kerry,	524	7	6
" Leitrim,	246	0	0
" Mayo,	590	11	3
" Roscommon,	212	15	0
" Sligo,	199	8	9
Total,	£3,002	5	2

Owing to delays in the preparation of schemes, only £88 out of the above total was paid within the year.

Extract from 13th Annual Report, for 1903-4.

I.—AGRICULTURE.

By Section 18 of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act of 1899 it was provided that the Department of Agriculture could not employ their Endowment Fund in the Congested Districts, and could only operate with regard to agricultural schemes in such districts with the funds of this Board, and at their request. Whenever, therefore, schemes for the improvement of live-stock or for purposes of agriculture or technical instruction, were prepared by County Councils and the Department, it became necessary to confine such schemes to the non-congested portions of the counties containing areas scheduled under the Act of 1891 (while the special rates were levied on the whole county), unless our Board approved the schemes and made a grant in aid equivalent to the grant made by the Department for the non-congested area.

These financial and administrative restrictions led to differential treatment of adjoining districts, and consequently to local grievances causing much troublesome negotiation between the departments concerned.

County Schemes.

The Irish Land Act, of 1903, by repealing the 18th Section of the Act of 1899, made it possible to extend the powers of the Department of Agriculture over all rural Ireland, and afforded a means of removing this inconvenience. Accordingly the Department and this Board conferred together in October last, and decided to take advantage of the change in the law and place the agricultural business entirely under the control of the Department. Our agricultural staff was taken over by the Department, and we agreed to make an annual payment of £2,000 as a contribution towards the cost of agricultural schemes carried out by the Department in the Congested Districts.

This arrangement came into effect from 31st March last, and since that date we have ceased to concern ourselves with agricultural work.

CORRESPONDENCE AS TO AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES proposed by the DISTRICTAL COUNTY COUNCIL.

SCHEME for the IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURE and for TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION approved by the County Council of Donegal, for the Rural District of Glenties, in which all the Electoral Divisions are scheduled as Congested.

I.—That a sum of £52 10s. be allocated to subsidise the owners of pedigree bulls, Shorthorn, and Polled Angus, leaving as far as possible an average of three bulls for each parish in the Union.

II.—That a sum of £48 be allocated to subsidise the owners of pedigree rams. As far as possible for each parish an average of seven rams.

III.—That a sum of £15 be allocated to subsidise the owners of boar pigs, Yorkshire.

IV.—That a sum of £30 be allocated to subsidise the owners of three sire horses, Suffolk Punch, Thoroughbred, and Clydesdale.

V.—That a sum of £31 be allocated for the improvement of the poultry, and that for this purpose there be established a number of centres (farm-house stations) for the sale or exchange of eggs for setting, laid by hens, ducks, geese and turkeys of improved breeds, to be selected by experts of the Congested Districts Board.

VI.—That a sum of £48 be allocated as prizes for the neatest cottages, the general cleanliness and neatness of the house, both interior and exterior, and the farmstead generally, to be taken into account. That for this purpose twenty-eight first class prizes of £2 each, and twenty-eight second class prizes of 10s. each, be awarded to farmers in the general district of Glenties, whose Poor Law Valuation does not exceed £4. That the judges be competent persons from outside the Union, to be nominated by the Technical Instruction Committee.

VII.—That a sum of £70 be allocated for prizes for the best cultivated farms; drainage and fencing to be taken into account. That for this purpose fourteen first class prizes of £2 and forty-two second class prizes of £1 each be awarded farmers in the Rural District of Glenties, whose Poor Law Valuation does not exceed £6. That the judges be competent persons from outside the Union, to be nominated by the Technical Instruction Committee.

VIII.—That a sum of £30 be allocated for the instruction of boys in net-mending and boat-building, and for the general improvement of the fishing industry in the Union.

IX.—That a sum of £12 be allocated for the instruction and training of two dairymaids in Glenties Model Farm.

X.—That the Committee strongly recommend the establishing of three technical schools, one at Killybegs, one at Glenties, and one at Dungloe, for the training of the youth, male and female, in the various branches of technical education, such as carpentry, boat and shoe making, coopering, embroidery, knitting, and laundry work, as soon as funds are available.

XI.—The Committee do not consider it necessary to allocate any money for flax culture at present.

13th May, 1901.

[The schemes for the Rural Districts of Dunfarghly, Donegal, Inishowen and Milford are of the same general character as the above.]

COPY OF MINUTES of the CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD dated 15th March, 1901.

"In future all schemes contributed to by taxation in Congested Districts, and supported by contributions from the Congested Districts Board, shall be submitted to the Board, who will enter into all necessary communication with the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and the amounts contributed by the Board shall be paid to the County Councils direct."

The following correspondence in connection with an agricultural scheme proposed for county Donegal in 1901, shows some of the earlier difficulties in carrying out the arrangements between the Board, the Department, and the County Councils.

COPY OF LETTER received by the CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, in reference to the Schemes proposed for the Congested Districts in County Donegal.

Dublin, 18th March, 1901.

SIR,

With reference to previous correspondence in regard to schemes under the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act in respect of Rural Districts in the County Donegal, submitted to the Department by the Congested Districts Board, for consideration and approval, in accordance with section 19 (4) of the Act, and to your minute of the 15th instant in respect of schemes contributed to by taxation in Congested Districts, and supported by contributions from the Congested Districts Board, I am directed by the Vice-President to communicate to you the views of the Department relative to these subjects.

With regard to the minute, I am to state that the Department will willingly concur in the future procedure suggested, but I am to remind you that the Department cannot divert themselves of their statutory responsibility under section 19 (4) of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, whereby their approval is necessary to each scheme, in accordance with the provisions of which it was proposed to apply money from the rates for each scheme, or for defraying any administrative or incidental expenses incurred for the purposes of the Act.

Before discussing the Donegal schemes referred to, it should be explained that there have been special difficulties in dealing with the case of this county, owing to the exceptional procedure adopted by the local authorities, and owing to the great variety of recommendations in the schemes. The procedure in other counties has been that the County Council acted as the unit of local authority and endeavoured in consultation with the Department's representatives to co-ordinate the schemes for all the Rural Districts into one county scheme before submitting them for the approval of the Department. In Donegal each Rural District Council submitted separate schemes. Furthermore, the Department, which was engaged in the formation of schemes with all the County Councils in Ireland, was obliged to concentrate attention on the live stock scheme for 1901, since these schemes have to be put in operation at once, if they are to be available for this year, and thus necessitated the postponement, but only for the time being, of the consideration of most other elements of the county schemes of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. In this connection it may be mentioned that the live stock schemes for the non-congested portion of the County Donegal have already been dealt with.

Proceeding now to the schemes under consideration it is observed that they include a certain number of recommendations which fall into three main categories —

1. Recommendations which can be approved at present.
2. Recommendations the principles of which may be approved, but as to which a definite opinion could not be expressed in the absence of further details and until after inspection by an expert of the Department.
3. Recommendations which are inadmissible.

I.—RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH CAN BE APPROVED AT PRESENT.

Under this head come :—

(a) Recommendations which may be considered part of the usual work of the Congested Districts Board in the county and of whose further proposed extension in the Congested Districts the Board approve. These include the suggestions regarding poultry and eggs, bees, swine, horses and other live stock. In the congested portions of the county the approval of the Congested Districts Board of such suggestions will be accepted by the Department. This approval will not, in pursuance of the arrangement set forth in the Department's letter of 13th March, apply to the schemes for the improvement of swine, horses, and other live stock in congested areas in Rural Districts which are mainly non-congested.

(b.) All the recommendations for prizes for the best kept cottages and best cultivated farms and the provision with respect to improving cottage dairies.

(c.) Recommendations for prizes for excellence in needlework, such as embroidery, sewed muslin, &c.

(d.) Scholarships to enable selected girls to obtain training in the Dairy Schools of Glenside and the Munster Institute.

(e.) Recommendations as to lectures on agriculture and subjects of technical instruction. (Note.—The system which has been adopted in other counties as regards lectures on agriculture with much success, and which it is recommended should also be followed in the case of Donegal, is that a lecturer should be appointed for the county and that his services should be available for all districts in the county, whether congested or non-congested).

With respect to all these recommendations the approval of the Department is hereby given.

These include :—

II.—RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO WHICH A DEFINITE OPINION CANNOT NOW BE EXPRESSED.

These include :

(a.) The recommendations for Fishery Schools in Donegal, Dunfarghly, and Portlough, and for Technical schools in Glenties, Killybegs, Dungloe, Donegal, and Letterkenry. In respect of none of these proposals are sufficient details furnished to permit of any opinion being expressed. But in any case the subject involved, namely, systematic technical instruction, is of such a nature

as to demand the greatest care, deliberation and method in its treatment, and before the Department could approve or even advise on a scheme it would be necessary that its experts should visit the centres concerned, confer with those interested in the work locally as to the needs and possibilities of technical instruction in the district, and make a report. Experience proves that this is the only successful method of dealing with a subject so complex and far-reaching as the establishment in any locality of a sound system of technical instruction. This is the procedure that is being adopted in the case of other counties. An inspector of the Department will visit Deesaul at the earliest opportunity. It may be pointed out that the pressure on the staff of the Department in this as well as in other respects in endeavouring to meet the simultaneous demands of all the counties in Ireland is at present almost overwhelming.

(b.) The suggestions with regard to flax are in principle approved, but the detailed working-out will have to be undertaken in connection with a scheme for the improvement of flax cultivation which is being determined by a special committee in conjunction with various County Councils in Ulster.

III.—RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ARE INADMISSIBLE.

(a.) Recommendations for grants for apparatus, &c., to National schools to enable them to carry out the new programme. The Department is precluded from applying or approving of the application of funds for any of the purposes for which funds are available under the Board of National Education.

(b.) It must be noted that grants under the Technical Instruction Acts which have hitherto been administered by the Board of Education, South Kensington, are given for instruction only see Part III. of the Memorandum on Powers and Procedure of Local Authorities, copy attached). Hence the grants cannot be used as seems to be suggested by some of the schemes for other purposes than those of instruction.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed), T. P. GILL,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Congested Districts Board,
Dublin.

On the 8th August, 1903, the Board made the following minute:—

Board Minute
B. 8. 62.

On consideration of the question of the future working of the County Agricultural, Live Stock, and Technical Instruction Schemes, the Board decided to carry on its own schemes in all congested districts, and to give no contribution if a rate be raised on a congested area in connection with County Schemes. The Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, passed on the 23rd June, 1902, gives power to County Councils to exempt Congested Districts from a rate raised for purposes of agriculture or technical instruction. The Board in their minute of the 13th December last, mentioned the following as the chief objections to the levying of a rate on the Congested Districts:—

"1. The raising of a rate for purposes for which the funds of the Board already provide.

"2. The allocation of about £2,600 a year of the Board's income to provide grants equivalent to the contributions made in the non-congested districts by the Department of Agriculture, as an addition to sums raised by local rates. Every penny of the Board's income is now devoted in the manner which the Board consider most beneficial to the interest of the congested districts."

It appears to the Board that the Congested Districts, having been scheduled on account of their poverty, should not be rated unless some additional grant to which they are not already entitled, is thereby obtainable; but the Department of Agriculture can give no such grant, and if the Congested Districts Board were to give a grant, by taking funds from their own schemes, they cannot directly control the expenditure. There are serious practical objections to two schemes for similar work being carried on at the same time, and consequently the Board have had to withdraw their own schemes where the Department were applying "County Schemes." The law, it appears, does not permit of this difficulty being solved by the county handing over to the Board the money collected by a rate, with the view of the rate being expended on the extension of the Board's existing schemes.

The draft letter to County Councils prepared by Mr. Wrench was approved as follows:—

SIR,—I am directed by the Congested Districts Board for Ireland to inform you that they have decided in future that, if in any case a County Council decides to raise a rate in Congested Districts, the Board will not make any equivalent contribution, but will devote their funds towards the carrying out of the Schemes approved of and initiated by them.

I am, &c.,

To the Secretary,
of the _____ County Council.

On the 12th October, 1903, a meeting was held of the Special Committee appointed by the Board to consider the question of transferring the agricultural work to the Department of Agriculture. There were present:—The Right Hon. George Wyndham, the Right Hon. Sir Antony MacDonnell, the Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, and the Right Hon. Sir Horace Plunkett. The Chief Secretary undertook to formulate the decisions arrived at by the Committee.

At the Board meeting on the 13th November, 1903, Sir Horace Plunkett reported that the Department had agreed to accept the Chief Secretary's proposals as to the terms of the transfer of the agricultural work, as explained in the following memorandum:—

TRANSFER OF THE AGRICULTURAL WORK OF THE BOARD.

(See Board's Minutes, 13th November, 1903, page 357.)

Chief Secretary's Office,
Dublin, 13th October, 1903.

VICE-PRESIDENT,—

It may be for the convenience of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction and of the Agricultural Board that I should put upon record the considerations which led to the repeal of Section 18 of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899.

The policy of the Government and, to the best of my belief, of Hon. Members representing Irish constituencies, was that the time and resources of the Congested Districts Board should, in so far as that may be possible, be concentrated now and in the near future on Land Purchase, with special regard to the relief of congestion, where it occurs, by migration, the amalgamation of uneconomic holdings, the vesting of pasturage in trustees on behalf of purchasers, and other devices provided for in the Land Act of 1903.

In this policy there is nothing new. It was contemplated, and even enjoined, by the Land Act of 1891. But the facilities afforded in that measure have proved inadequate. The principal methods of amelioration present to the mind of the Government in 1891 were the amalgamation of holdings and the encouragement of stock-breeding, fishing, and cottage industries. These methods achieved but a partial success, because the necessity of purchase as a preliminary to the improvement of uneconomic holdings was not then fully recognised.

The Land Bill of 1902, the Land Conference, and the Land Act of 1903, are the outcome of a conviction that the creation of an occupying proprietary is the first essential condition of agricultural prosperity in Ireland. It is also held that the Land problem is more urgent in the congested districts than elsewhere, that purchase by the Board has passed beyond the experimental stage, and that all the energies and resources of the Board are barely sufficient to carry out this work on the scale and at the pace required.

Parliament, therefore, decided in effect that the barriers between the scheduled congested districts and the rest of Ireland should not in future prohibit the gradual transfer, from the Congested Districts Board to the new Department, of such work as the latter might advantageously undertake and finance with the aid of local contributions with a view to the liberation of the time and resources of the Congested Districts Board and their other concentration on the primary work of purchase and the relief of congestion.

By using this phrase I am not to be understood as undervaluing the importance and necessity of the work carried out by the new Department. Excellent alike in conception and execution, it has been attended by a success which reflects high credit on all concerned. It is secondary only in order of time and in the sense that it will fructify more largely when super-imposed on the primary work of purchase and the relief of congestion. In this appreciation of the aims and achievement of the Department, I desire to include the Council of Agriculture, which has supported its policy, and the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Board, which have provided the necessary funds for its execution.

For the present I propose that the Agricultural Department should take over the scheduled congested districts in respect only of their agricultural schemes. To accompany this transfer by a large diversion of income from the Congested Districts Board would be unnecessary and destructive of the general policy which must be pursued.

As the primary work of the Congested Districts Board is completed it will be possible, and proper, to liberate its funds in aid of the secondary work of the Department. In the meantime the Board will be willing to supplement the work of the Department where special cases of widespread poverty call for special assistance. In addition to such special assistance in respect of Agricultural Schemes, the scheduled districts will still enjoy exceptional assistance in respect of industries and fishing, quite apart from the greater facilities for purchase and the relief of congestion afforded by the Land Act of 1903. They will, however, surrender in respect of Agricultural Schemes a part of their right to preferential treatment. It is proper that the Congested Districts Board should, in common with other departments, effect some economy to push forward the primary work to which I have more than once referred.

It is also fitting that the Agricultural Department should make, and the Agricultural Board should concur in, a contribution to the same object by undertaking labours in a somewhat larger field. I do not, however, suggest that the transfer should be effected without any financial assistance. I propose that the Agricultural Department should take over, free of charge, the stud, stallions, bulls, &c., now owned by the Congested Districts Board, and that the Congested Districts Board should divert to the Department a sum of £2,000 per annum.

The proposed transfer will not deplete the savings effected by the Agricultural Department, or frustrate the policy it has pursued. For, as the primary work of the Congested Districts Board is completed, further funds will be available for pushing on the secondary work of Agriculture and Technical Instruction on a secure foundation.

(Signed),

GEORGE WYNDHAM.

F 2

Special Committee,
12.10.03.

Sr. Wyndham's
Memorandum

Sr. Wyndham's
Memorandum,
15.10.03.

Sir Horace Plunkett's
Memorandum.

COPY.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION,
DUBLIN, 21st October, 1903.

CHIEF SECRETARY,—

I have received your memorandum of the 13th instant, recording, for the information of this Department, the considerations which led to the repeal of Section 18 of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899, and intimating that in order to liberate the time and resources of the Congested Districts Board for the purpose of dealing effectively with the primary work of land purchase and the relief of congestion, it is proposed that the Department shall take over the scheduled congested districts in respect of their Agricultural Schemes only, those districts surrendering in respect of such Agricultural Schemes a part of their right to preferential treatment, and that in connection with the transfer the Department shall assume, free of charge, the ownership of the Cheshill Stud Farms, stallions, bulls, etc., now owned by the Congested Districts Board, and receive from that Board an annual sum of £2,000. The Department, in furtherance of the policy you so clearly indicate, are quite prepared to accept the additional responsibilities which the Government desire they should undertake. The proposed annual grant of £2,000 will, however, be insufficient to meet the extra expenditure involved in the extension of the Department's operations to the congested districts, and, consequently, a substantial portion of the cost must be charged against the funds placed at the disposal of the Department by the Act of 1899. I shall bring the matter before the Agricultural Board at their next meeting, and ask their concurrence to the application of so much of the Department's funds as may be necessary to make up the deficiency. You are aware the Agricultural Board are empowered to withhold their approval of expenditure for this purpose; but I feel sure they will readily agree to my proposal when I explain the policy of the Government and state that it is intended, that according as the primary work of the Congested Districts Board is completed, to liberate its funds in aid of the work of the Department.

I note that the Congested Districts Board are willing to supplement the work of the Department where widespread poverty calls for special assistance. Under such an arrangement there is, of course, a danger of some overlapping, which, however, I anticipate both Departments will be able to avoid.

No reference is made in your Memorandum to the question of the transfer to this Department of the indoor and outdoor staff at present employed by the Congested Districts Board in carrying out Agricultural Schemes, but in view of what took place at the recent conference I presume that it is intended that the Department shall take over such members of that staff as they may require for the purposes of their work in the congested districts, the cases of any particular officers whose transfer might give rise to Departmental difficulties being specially dealt with. The Department will put themselves into communication with the Congested Districts Board regarding the details of the transfer.

I desire, on behalf of the officers of this Department and myself, to thank you for your reference to our efforts in discharge of the varied functions entrusted to us by the Act creating the Department.

(Signed),

HORACE PLUNKETT.

Extract from Minutes of Board Meeting held on 13th November, 1903.

Sir Horace Plunkett reported that the Department of Agriculture had agreed to accept the Chief Secretary's proposals as to the terms of the transfer of the agricultural work of the Board to the Department. (*See correspondence attached.*)

The Staff of Agricultural Inspectors and Instructors transferred to the Department of Agriculture consisted of:—

W. Staveil, Inspector,	Salary, £100
Ry. Smith, Instructor,	" 100
D. S. Simpson, do,	" 100
F. Taylor, do,	" 100
H. Kennedy, do,	" 100
J. Harper, do,	" 95
P. Nolan, do,	" 90
T. B. O'Brien, Bee-keeping Expert,	" 150
F. Beek, Fruit and Market Garden Expert,	" 140
Miss M. Costello, Poultry Expert,	" 100

Staff of Agricultural Branch of the Board's Officers when the transfer of the business was agreed upon:—

Walter Pigot	Salary, £500
(In charge)	
T. J. Kinneen,	130
W. Dawson,	" 117 10s.
B. McGlinchey,	" 117 10s.
E. B. Deaught,	" —
J. Appleton,	" 97 10s.
G. McErlena,	" 78
J. O'Mahony,	" 78
P. Hanway,	" 78

With regard to the Office Staff, Mr. Walter Pigot was not transferred to the Department and Mr. Kinnear became attached to the Land Commission.

The whole of the County Staff were transferred.

The following estimates for the Board's agricultural schemes for the year 1902-3 show the nature of the work they were carrying on when this business was transferred:—

Scheme	Expenditure	Receipts
	£	£
Horses and Asses,	1,400	1,000
Small Farms,	500	—
Cattle,	3,800	1,400
Sheep,	1,350	200
Swine,	400	100
Poultry,	550	50
Beekeeping,	550	—
Seeds and Manures,	1,300	1,100
Implement,	2,750	2,750
Pestic spraying,	300	—
Fruit Trees,	500	50
Forestry,	125	50
Honey,	450	400
Totals	18,125	7,100

With regard to Technical Instruction applications have been made by several County Councils for grants from the Board in aid of local rates, but the Board have declined to contribute anything beyond the total of £3,002 offered in 1902.

The Board have no information as to the nature or extent of the agricultural work carried out by the Department in congested districts since the transfer of the business in 1903, nor are the rates levied on the congested districts since the passing of the Act of 1899, shown separately in the Local Taxation Returns.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

In 1905, when the Board decided to transfer the control of agriculture to the Department of Agriculture, they made no change in regard to Technical Instruction in Home Industries, and this work has continued to be carried on under Mr. Walker's supervision.

The following Minute was made by the Industries Committee on 13th March, 1901:—

"On consideration of correspondence with the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction relative to the application made by the Derry Home Industries Society for assistance in maintaining an industrial class which was started in the village of Kinsleigh, situated in a non-congested district, the Committee decided, notwithstanding their resolution of the 7th November last, that where an industrial undertaking is established by the Board in a district adjoining a non-congested area, the entire expense of maintaining the same may be borne by them; but where schools are started in non-congested areas adjoining congested districts, the expense may be borne by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and no regard is to be had to the districts whence the workers come, whether congested or non-congested."

The Board, by Minute dated 13th December, 1901, expressed the opinion that no special rates under the Agriculture Act of 1899, or the Technical Instruction Act, should be levied on a Congested District, and the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, 1902, gave power to County Councils to exempt any Electoral Division from a rate under these Acts. On the 8th August, 1902, and again in November, 1902, the Board reaffirmed the opinion expressed by them on 13th December, 1901, and the contributions then made towards the joint schemes of the Department of Agriculture and the County Councils, were declared to be local grants.

On 15th February, 1906, the County Council of Kerry passed a resolution asking the Board for a contribution towards technical instruction schemes prepared by the Department and County Council, but the Board on 22nd March and 18th May 1906, declined to make any grant. It should be observed that the home industry work carried on by the Board, although it includes instruction in handicrafts and assists some pupils to obtain lessons in drawing at the Schools of Art in Dublin or Cork, consists mainly of the introduction and temporary maintenance of industries not previously in existence in the various localities. The Board pays for the rent of a work-room or builds a class-room, if no suitable accommodation can be found, provides a trained teacher and pays his or her salary. The different descriptions of work carried on in these classes is shown in each of the Board's Annual Reports under the head of "Industries."

The Board's operations are directly industrial and do not, it will be seen, embrace secondary education or the teaching of science and art—subjects which are, or have hitherto been, the chief subjects in the schemes of the Department and the County Councils. It should, however, be understood that the Board's view has all along been that the Congested Districts should receive special and additional assistance from their funds over and above any assistance that may be given to the country generally, both congested and non-congested, and when the Board expressed an objection to the special rates being levied on the Congested Districts they had no wish to deprive those districts of any benefits which were obtained by the rest of the country, but stated that they were not prepared to contribute a considerable portion of their annual income to enable the "County Schemes" for Technical Instruction to be extended to the scheduled districts as they required all their funds for their own work. This was made clear by their Minute of 8th August, 1902.—See page 7 above.

The Board's own expenditure on technical instruction, since the passing of the Agriculture, &c., Act of 1895, has been as follows:—

PERIOD.	Agriculture.			Fishing.			Industries.			Totals.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
October, 1899 to 31.3.1900.	911	18	4	2,731	15	2	1,965	10	2	5,609	18	8
Year 1900-1.	2,749	13	10	6,351	15	9	3,446	8	11	12,545	3	6
" 1901-2.	2,035	5	6	4,556	0	2	5,708	10	0	16,349	15	8
" 1902-3.	2,549	0	0	5,269	8	2	4,625	19	6	12,444	7	8
" 1903-4.	3,542	18	3	6,121	8	7	4,942	4	11	14,605	9	9
" 1904-5.	2,818	15	0	5,083	4	3	5,825	9	6	13,692	8	9
" 1905-6.	42	16	0	3,614	12	6	6,250	14	5	10,227	16	11
Total.	13,219	17	11	35,832	5	7	32,995	17	5	82,066	0	11

F. W. D. MITCHELL,

20th August, 1906.

ADDENDUM.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION FOR IRELAND.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE AGRICULTURAL BOARD at a MEETING held on Thursday, the 19th day of July, 1906:—

"After considerable discussion, and a consideration of the correspondence between the Vice-President and then Chief Secretary, Mr. Wyndham, the following resolution was proposed by Mr. P. J. O'Neill, seconded by Lord Montagu, and passed unanimously:—

"That the Board consider it urgently necessary that their financial position as regards the agricultural work taken over from the Congested Districts Board should be dealt with. As they pointed out at the time of that arrangement, the sum of £2,000, voted by the Congested Districts Board, is quite inadequate, and the Department, with the concurrence of the Agricultural Board, have been supplementing that sum from the moneys assigned to them by Parliament for the parts of Ireland other than the congested districts, on the understanding that this encroachment upon their Endowment Fund should be recouped at the earliest possible date either in the manner referred to in the Chief Secretary's memorandum of October 13th, 1903, namely, from the funds of the Congested Districts Board, or otherwise. Since that date the deficit has not been made good, and the Department and the Agricultural Board, in their anxiety to assist the congested districts in respect of the work taken over, have annually supplemented the inadequate sum provided, and in January, 1905, voted £10,000 to those districts for seed potatoes in connection with the failure of the potato crop of that season. Now that the demands on the Endowment Fund for schemes in the non-congested parts of the country exceed the total annual sum available, it will be neither practicable nor legitimate for the Board to deplete the funds intended by Parliament for these parts of the country in order to apply them to districts for which they were not intended. In these circumstances the Board find it necessary to request the Government to give effect to the undertaking of Mr. Wyndham and supplement their Endowment Fund with a special provision for work in the congested districts, otherwise the work in these districts must seriously suffer."

COPY OF MINUTE PASSED at a SPECIAL MEETING of the CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD held on Tuesday, 28th August, 1906.

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir Antony MacDonnell, G.C.S.I. (presiding); Mr. Charles Kennedy, and Mr. W. P. Geoghegan.

"On consideration of the Resolution adopted by the Department of Agriculture at their meeting on the 19th ult., the Board are altogether unable to agree in the interpretation placed on their President's Minute of the 13th October, 1903. They are clear on the point that there was at the time no intention on the Board's part to increase the contribution of £2,000 then made to the Department. Apart from this question of interpretation or intention, the Board find their resources all too insufficient for their immediate and prospective requirements."

F. W. D. MITCHELL,

Secretary.

Memorandum F.

PARISH COMMITTEES.

In 1297 on the recommendation of the Rev. Denis O'Hara, the Board adopted the new principle of giving assistance in money to induce the small landholders in the poorest of the Congested Districts to make an effort to improve their houses and holdings.

The circumstances were peculiar. Owing, in the first instance, to the people having been long ago compelled to settle on the inferior lands, on rocky, boggy land, or mountain slopes, the vast majority of the small cottages were extremely poor, and a large proportion could not support themselves by their holdings. A second cause of this miserable condition was no doubt the prevalence of absenteeism, for as landlordism reigned most of the year amongst the tenantry could have failed to use his influence, and his means to effect some improvement in the condition of his tenants.

No doubt the people themselves were much to blame, in fact everyone concerned, including the local authorities and the State, was to blame for a state of things which was and is a disgrace to civilisation. When the Board's operations commenced there were at least thirty thousand families in the Congested Districts living in houses unfit for human habitation, with filthy surroundings, and on holdings where tillage, fencing, draining, and reclamation were all neglected. Although thousands of these tenants went to England and Scotland as migratory labourers year after year and generation after generation, and therefore had knowledge of better farming, and well-kept cottages, no improvement was made in either houses or holdings. Possibly the fear of the rent being raised on an improved holding, a fear partially removed by the Land Act of 1885, may have had something to do with this general neglect. Strange as it may seem custom, and the reluctance to adopt a higher standard of living than their neighbours, had a considerable effect in preventing reform. It may be said that good advice and friendly encouragement would have sufficed to rouse these people to do all that lay in their power to improve both houses and holdings, without pecuniary assistance, but it is certain that any such advice received from those who had influence with them had been unheeded. The Board's plan was to arouse self-help and energy by lending a helping hand, in addition to giving good advice. They hoped in this way to lift the people out of the "slough of despond" in which they had lain so long and to break the traditional contentedness with a miserable standard of home-comfort, and a wretched system of husbandry. They attempted this through a committee established in each parish, consisting of the clergy, medical officer, county councillor, district councillor, resident landlords or agents, and six members elected by the landholders.

These committees receive from the Board sums varying generally from £50 to £150 in each year, according to the condition of the people and the number of small occupiers. The committees, under regulations strictly enforced by the Board, give small grants in cash to the occupiers of holdings under £7 valuation, who undertake to carry out certain improvements, the general rule being that the value of the work done is about four times the amount of the grant received. This system has succeeded admirably, and where it has been some years in operation has quite altered the general aspect of the holdings and farms, and has been the means of greatly improving the conditions under which the people live. It has induced hundreds of tenants to erect outbuildings for their cattle which had hitherto been kept in their own dwelling-rooms. When the Board purchased the Dillien Estate about five-sixths of the 6,000 tenants kept cattle in their dwellings, and if the Parish Committee system has in any way failed it is in not having completed this most necessary reform. The Board have for some years, by a special rule, endeavoured to press on the committees the urgency of this work, but even in parishes which have received grants five or six years there are still large numbers of cottages where the

animals are housed in the rooms occupied by the family.

The system of giving grants in cash on condition that certain work is done will perhaps ultimately merge into one of prizes for the best-kept houses, holdings or gardens, when the need for great reforms in the condition of the tenements is less urgent than it is at present, and when a smaller sum is available for grants.

The prize system has already been adopted in many parishes in County Donegal.

The Parish Committee system is not, it will be observed, one which would have been devised or permitted if the funds available were being administered by a Department which could only act within narrow lines strictly laid down by statute, which was compelled always to act on "commercial principles" and which possessed no large discretionary powers for making experiments or attempting anything in the shape of paternal government. That the results attained have amply justified the initiative taken by the Board, may be seen from the statistics published in their annual reports, and can be proved by visiting any of the parishes where the scheme has been some years in operation.

The following is a collective statement of the work done under the scheme. There have been 159 Parish Committees formed up to the present, the number in each county being as follows:—

County.	Number of Committees.
Donegal,	54
Leitrim,	32
Sligo,	10
Mayo,	44
Roscommon,	8
Galway,	16
Keery,	17
Cork,	8
	159

It should be noted that the work of the Parish Committees has all along been watched and controlled most carefully in every detail by a special staff at the Board's office. The regulations for the proper election of the members, the calling of meetings, the appointment of secretaries and superintendents, and the circumstances of every individual grant made are carefully scrutinised, and disallowed or approved. The labour entailed is very great, as the application forms alone number about 10,000 in the year, and every one of these is checked in every particular.

For the first three years, 1897, 1898, 1899, in which £4,831 was paid to various parishes, no record has been kept of the amount of work done, but for the past six years, in which £27,355 has been paid by the Board for 14,539 different works valued at £117,484 the results are:—

(a) Dwelling-houses erected or improved,	4,513
Estimated value of work done,	£27,249
Grants made by Committees,	£3,890
(b) Out-offices for cattle, erected or improved,	7,519
Estimated value of work done,	£93,532
Grants made by the Committees,	£14,789
(c) Drains and fences made or improved,	1,308
Estimated value of work done,	£7,153
Grants by Committees,	£1,441
(d) Accommodation made or improved,	895
Estimated value of work,	£13,088
Grants by Committees,	£1,835

(c) Miscellaneous, reclamation, &c.

Number of Works,	254
Estimated value,	£1,472
Grants by Committee,	320

This is exclusive of the work done by the County Donegal Committees during the past three years. The

results recorded for the past year were:—

Grants for dwelling-houses,	2010
Erection of out-offices,	645
Drains and fences,	100
Roads,	69
Reclamation, &c.,	68
	£1,904

The value of the work done is estimated at £16,419.

(Signed), F. W. D. MITCHELL.

22nd August, 1906.

COPY of CASE submitted to Council by the Congested Districts Board in June, 1893, as to the Board's power to construct roads, &c., and of Counsel's opinion. (See evidence, p. 43).

CASE on behalf of the CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD for IRELAND for OPINION and ADVICE OF COUNSEL.

Council is referred to 54 and 55 Vic., Cap. 48, Sec. 39, which empowers the Congested Districts Board to take such steps as they may think proper for the purposes therein mentioned, which includes aiding and developing agriculture and fishing (including the construction of Piers and Harbours), and any other suitable industries; and the Land Commission are thereby empowered to acquire (by purchase or taking on lease) and hold land, and place same under the control of the Congested Districts Board on such terms and conditions as they may deem expedient.

Sub-section (4) empowers said Board to proceed under said section, directly or indirectly, and by the application of money at their disposal or otherwise, and to make gifts or loans to any persons upon and subject to such conditions as the Board consider expedient.

The Board believing that the said Act authorised them to undertake such works as the making of roads and construction of bridges, provided they considered same to be in aid of any of the industries mentioned in said Section 39, resolved to execute several works of that description in the Counties of Donegal, Mayo, and Galway.

In the month of February, 1893, the Board advertised for tenders by Contractors for making fifteen roads in Co. Donegal, and tenders for fourteen of such roads were subsequently duly accepted by the Board. Formal contracts in ten of such cases have in the month of May last been duly executed for sums amounting in all to £5,313 12s. 6d., and bonds of the several contractors and their sureties also given to the Board.

Prior to the execution of said contracts, the Board obtained the consent of the several owners of the lands through which the said roads are proposed to be made, and said owners have all signed conveyances of same. Some of such conveyances are made for a money consideration, and others in consideration of the advantages resulting to the owners from the proposed road. Some of such conveyances are made to the Board, and others to Mr. Gahan, the County Surveyor of Donegal, who is acting as engineer for the Board.

Two of said conveyances are herewith sent for perusal of Counsel.

The Secretary of the Board states that nearly all the landlords of the lands through which said roads are proposed to be made, have signified their consent thereto, but have not as yet executed conveyances. A few of said landlords may possibly refuse such consent.

One conveyance by an owner (Mr. G. H. Mitchell) has been executed to the Board, and is herewith sent for Counsel's perusal.

The Secretary of the Board attended before the Grand Jury of the County of Donegal, at the Spring Assizes, 1893, and, as instructed by the Board, requested the Grand Jury to give the Board authority to build a bridge across the Gweebarra river, and make the fifteen roads previously referred to. After considerable discussion, the Grand Jury passed a resolution authorising the Board to build the said bridge, and to make the approaches to it, and the Grand Jury by said resolution, also undertook to maintain said Bridge, and its approaches, and the roads set forth in Schedule to the Board's advertisement for tenders (being the fifteen roads before referred to) when accepted as complete by their County Surveyor.

Counsel is herewith sent shorthand writer's notes of the interview of the Board's Secretary with said Grand Jury, also copy of the said Resolution. A form of contract made by the Board with the several contractors is also sent.

The works have been actually commenced on four of the said fifteen roads in County Donegal.

The Board also advertised for and accepted tenders for making a road and constructing a pier with road approaching thereto, at Derryryna, in the County of Galway, in respect of both of which contracts have been signed, and the works actually commenced.

No application has been made by the Board to the Land Commission requiring them to purchase or take on lease the lands necessary for the approaches to the said pier, nor has any conveyance or lease of same been executed to the Board, or any person on their behalf.

The formal consent, in writing, of the Board of Trade to the construction of the said pier, has, however, been obtained.

The Board have also accepted a tender, and entered into a contract for the construction of a Landing Quay, and making the approaches thereto at Beaudon Creek, County Kerry. Conveyances of the lands required for the purpose have been executed by the occupying tenants of said lands to the Secretary of the Board, but the landlords of said lands have not executed any such conveyances.

One of such conveyances is herewith sent Counsel.

No application has been made by the Board to the Land Commission, to purchase or take on lease the lands required for said purpose, nor has the consent of the Board of Trade been obtained.

The Board have also advertised for and accepted tenders for six roads in County Mayo, and notified such acceptance to the contractors, but no contracts have yet been executed.

No applications with reference to any of the said works in the counties of Galway and Mayo have been made by the Board to the Grand Jurors of those counties, nor have they passed any resolutions regarding same.

The Secretary of the Board has recently written to all the contractors whose tenders have been accepted or with whom contracts have been entered into (except in those cases in which the works have been actually commenced), and informed them that the matter is still under the Board's consideration, and authorizing them against incurring any expense in connection with the contract pending further instructions from the Board.

The Board also propose to carry out a Drainage Scheme in connection with the Culltybo River, a tributary of the river May in the County Mayo. No advertisement for tenders has yet been published, nor any contract entered into with reference to said Drainage Scheme.

The Culltybo River is not navigable, but salmon spawn at some points in the river—and there are mills situated on its banks. The length of the river proposed to be deepened is about two miles, and in some places it is proposed to alter the course of the stream by cutting and straightening same.

The Board propose to advertise a notice of their intention to carry out the said Drainage Scheme and calling on the riparian owners and occupiers and others having rights of water, fishing or other rights to signify their assent or dissent thereto, and the Board propose subsequently to obtain such assents in writing from all such necessary parties as Counsel may advise.

There has not been any investigation of the title of any owners or occupiers of any lands proposed to be taken by the Board for any of the aforesaid purposes.

The Board having recently instructed their present solicitor to advise them as to the proper steps to be taken with reference to the acquisitions of the lands necessary for carrying out the several works before mentioned, and also for carrying out the said Drainage Scheme, have been advised to obtain the opinion of Counsel as to the general powers of the Board to undertake the execution of such works, and also Counsel's directions as to the necessary procedure which should be adopted.

Counsel will please advise:—

1. Does Section 39 of the said Act authorize the Board to expend monies, either directly or indirectly, in the construction of roads (other than the necessary approaches to piers and harbours) provided the Board consider same will be aiding and developing any of the industries mentioned in (1) (a) of said section?

2. If Counsel is of opinion that the Board are not authorized, has the Board power to undertake the execution of the works, and enter into a contract for same, and, if so, what steps should be taken by the Board for the legal acquisition of the lands necessary for the purpose and protection of the Board from actions by any persons whose property may be injured thereby?

3. If Counsel is of opinion that the Board are not authorized to undertake the execution of such works, but they may indirectly apply for such purposes money at their disposal, Counsel will please advise in what manner the object of the Board could be carried out so that said roads could be constructed by the Grand Jury or otherwise.

4. Counsel will please fully advise all the necessary steps which should be taken by the Board for the acquisition of lands required for the construction of piers and harbours, and the approaches thereto.

5. Does Section 39 of said Act authorize the Board either directly or indirectly to expend monies in carrying out Drainage Schemes which the Board may consider as aiding or developing any of the industries mentioned in (1) (a) of said Section?

CONCLUS.

Query 1.—I think the construction of 34 and 35 *Vis.*, c. 48, Sec. 19 (1) (c), is governed by the rule known as *ejusdem generis* rule, which is laid down by Lord Campbell in *R. v. Edmundson*, 22 L.J. M.C., at p. 215, as follows, "where there are general words following particular and specific words the general words must be confined to things of the same kind as those specified." I am therefore of opinion that road and bridge making merely as relief works, or for opening up a district, is not within the Board's powers and that the words "any other suitable industries" should be construed as referring to the encouragement of some trade or calling, e.g., sugar planting, basket-making, fish hatching, &c., &c.

The Act, however, is a remedial one, and should therefore receive a beneficial construction. Baron Cleary in *Scott and Legg*, 2 K. J., at p. 42, says: "It seldom happens that the framers of an Act of Parliament or the Legislature, has in contemplation all the cases which are likely to arise, and the language therefore seldom fits every possible case, if the case is clearly within the mischief the words must be read so as to cover the case if by any reasonable construction they can be read so as to cover it, though the words may point more exactly to another case."

It appears from S. 2 (2) of the Light Railways (Ireland) Act, 1899, which empowers the Lord Lieutenant to declare that it is desirable that a Light Railway should be constructed between certain places "for the development of fisheries and other industries," that facilitating communication is a means of aiding industry contemplated by Parliament, accordingly, I am of opinion that in order to connect a fishery or other productive industry with highway or market, that making roads and bridges is within the Board's powers, which are not limited to making pier approaches.

The Board should decide each case judicially, and I would suggest that it would be expedient to record the grounds of their determination on their minutes. In arriving at their decision they may remember that although they must anticipate objection from some whose lands are required (which is experienced in every public work) yet with this exception it is difficult to see whose interest it would be to restrain them.

I am further of opinion that the words in Sub-sec. 4 of Sec. 39, cited in the case, viz.: "The Board may proceed under this Section, directly or indirectly, and by the application of money at their disposal or otherwise," do not mean that the benefit to the industry aided may be indirect, but—as is evident from the use of the word "proceed" which applies to the entire sentence—that the Board may execute works themselves, or act indirectly through the agency of others (e.g., Drainage Boards, Grand Juries, Harbour Trustees, and promoters of undertakings), and are designed to exclude the general principle that public bodies invested with statutory powers cannot delegate those powers. The word "otherwise" I conceive would include the gratuitous supply of skilled supervision, the expense of preparing maps and plans, engineering and legal expenses, and the supply of materials.

Query 2.—In cases in which the Board hold that they are authorized to undertake the execution of works they can enter into a contract for their execution.

At present the only power they have to acquire lands is by agreement, and if they can agree with all persons interested, including Mortgagees, for the purchase of the land or of a right of way, they can, of course, make a road just as any private person could. If this mode of procedure be adopted, the conveyances should be to the Land Commission, which is incorporated, and has power to hold land by the 42nd Section of the Land Law Act. The Board being unincorporated, and only a temporary body, have no power to hold land, and neither has their Secretary nor the Secretary of the Grand Jury in their official

capacities. Lands conveyed to each Secretary (assuming the conveyance to be properly drawn) would not be transmitted to his successor in office, but pass to the heir-at-law or personal representative of the Grantee or Assignee, as the case may be, as Trustees for the Board.

The conveyances to the Congested Districts Board sent are imperative as the Board have no power to hold lands; the conveyances to Mr. Micks (of Harbour lands in Kerry), and Mr. Gahan, are without words of limitation, and confer only a life estate on the Assignee as Trustees for the Board.

The consent of the Land Commission should be obtained to the conveyances, being to them, and title should be deduced to their satisfaction in the ordinary way, which is necessary to preclude eviction by title paramount to that purchased, to prevent the possibility of the Land Commission incurring a liability to pay rent by assignment of a leasehold, and also inasmuch as assignment by a tenant might not only be a breach of covenant, but is a breach of statutory conditions where a fair rent has been fixed, to ascertain that the landlord has assented, in such cases, to the tenant's conveyance.

The foregoing observations apply equally to drainage schemes with this modification, that in addition conveyances or releases from riparian owners and occupiers, both at the site of and below the works, mill owners and fishery owners should also be procured.

Query 2.—The difficulties surrounding the foregoing procedure are too obvious to require comment or render its adoption practicable except perhaps for short approach roads. A road unlike a railway is usually only a right of way for the public, the soil remaining vested in the adjoining proprietors although commonly but inaccurately described in books of reference as vested in the Grand Jury or their Secretary.

The procedure usually adopted when it is desired to make roads free of expense to the county and which I recommend the Board to adopt is to obtain a presentment for a nominal sum—and is as follows:—

Notices of an intended application for a new road should be served on the occupiers of the intended line of road fifteen days at least before Presentment Sessions.

An application accompanied by a map and proof of the service of Notices should be lodged with the Secretary of the Grand Jury ten days at least before Presentment Sessions.

If the Sessions approve the application, the plans and sections which should have been prepared by the applicant are adopted by the County Surveyor and deposited with the Secretary of the Grand Jury and tenders advertised for.

The applicants then tender for a nominal sum (generally 1s.) which is accepted at the adjourned Presentment Sessions.

A contract is then entered into by or on behalf of the applicants, and the Secretary of the Grand Jury for the construction of the road, which is presented for by the Grand Jury at the ensuing Assizes in the usual way, the applicant can then enter into sub-contracts for the execution of the works.

The advantages of this course are that it gives powers of entry to survey and execute the works, compulsory powers to acquire the right of way, subject to the payment of damages for injury, power to obtain materials, and to prevent obstruction and injury to the works, besides precluding actions for trespass, to which, in the absence of license, the Board would be liable unless protected by statutory powers.

Query 4.—The only power the Board at present have of acquiring lands for pier and harbour works, is by agreement, as regards which see my answer to Query 2. Two other courses are open to the Board, viz:—

I. They may procure a memorial from an adjacent proprietor, to the Commissioners of Public Works, under 9 Vic., c. 3, representing the advantages of the pier. The Commissioners can then adopt the plans and estimate, which should have been prepared by the Board. The Commissioners of Public Works are then after certain declarations, notices, and the judgment of plans, empowered to execute the works, and acquire lands (the conveyance of which should be to the Commissioners of Public Works), with power to make by-laws: levy tolls, and recover penalties, and after a final award, to transfer the pier to the Grand Jury, who may exercise powers of management and maintenance, and there are provisions for repair in the event of the Grand Jury neglecting to maintain—16 and 17 Vic., c. 136, sections 11 and 12, 40 and 41 Vic., c. 27, 4.

The disadvantages of this course are (1) The Act is framed with a view to advances from the Treasury. I do not think an advance is essential, but if it be, it might be for a trivial sum which could if required be repaid by the Board. (2) The works are to be executed by the Commissioners of Public Works, but I apprehend that it would be easy to arrange that they should be executed by the Board to the satisfaction of the Engineer of the Commissioners of Public Works.

II. The other course is to form a Company with a nominal capital for the purpose of constructing these piers (I think there should be separate companies for different sections) and the Board could advance money to the company. This would require a local Act incorporating the material parts of the Harbours, Piers and Docks Clauses Act, 1847 (giving the undertakers power to acquire lands, levy tolls, recover penalties, keep order, &c.). This course would necessitate compliance with standing orders (the publication of advertisements, service of notices on owners and occupiers, deposit of plans, sections, and books of reference, with the Clerk of the Peace before the 30th November, and afterwards in the Private Bill Office, &c.), which would involve expense and loss of time, besides, in the absence of sufficient tolls, leaving maintenance indefinitely provided for.

Unless one or other of these courses is adopted, however, the Board, in addition to the difficulties of acquiring lands, will, on the completion of the works, be without powers of management.

The assent of the Board of Trade must of course be procured for Harbour works.

Query 5.—Subject to my observations contained in my answer to Query 1, I think the Board have power to execute Drainage works.

J. V. FITZGERALD.

89, Lower Bagin Street, Dublin.
June 10th, 1893.

Grand Jury
Act, 6 & 7
Wm. IV., ch.
114, sec. 55.
ss. 14 & 55.

Sec. 17.

Sec. 22.

Sec. 28.

Sec. 124.

Sec. 162.

STATEMENT of the reasons for the withdrawal of certain subsidies to Steamer Services made by the Congested Districts Board. (See page 46 of Evidence).

(a.) In the first year of their operations, in April, 1892, the Board established a tri-weekly service between Galway and the Aran Islands, agreeing to pay a subsidy of £700 a year to the Galway Steam Boat Company. This arrangement has continued up to the present.

(b.) In 1896 the Board subsidised a service between Westport and Clifden on the south and Belmullet on the north, paying £300 a year, but the service was discontinued on 28th February, 1898. Complaints had been made of the irregularity of the service, and Messrs. Laird & Co., shipowners, stated that the people of Belmullet discontinued the service and complained of its irregularity because of their desire to obtain a Railway service instead. At the expiration of the nine months, Messrs. Laird stated that they would require a subsidy of £750 for a further period of nine months. They subsequently reported that they could not obtain a suitable steamer for the service, and that if it were necessary to build one, a fair subsidy for a considerable number of years should be guaranteed. The Board attempted to make arrangements with other persons to carry out a satisfactory service for a subsidy of £200, but without success.

(c.) For nine months, between April and December, 1897, a subsidy of £250 was paid to establish a service between Sligo and Broadhaven. The Sligo Steam Navigation Company were losing on the working of the service, and were unwilling to continue it. The Board subsequently offered to Messrs. W. G. & T. Pollexfen & Co., the owners of the steamer which had been chartered by the Sligo Steam Navigation Company for this service, a subsidy of £300 if they would continue to carry it on, but they declined this

offer, and as the Board could not see their way to increase it, the service came to an end.

(d.) On 1st July, 1898, a service was commenced on the coast of Donegal with a subsidy of £600 a year from the Board. The terminal ports were Londonderry and Donegal, with occasional calls, as weather and tide permitted, at Ballymena, Burtisport, Mount Charles and Dunfussagh. Numerous complaints were received from local traders as to the unsatisfactory manner in which the service was being carried out, and on reconsidering the question of continuing the subsidy to the Donegal Steamship Company, the Board decided, in April, 1901, to offer them a subsidy of £300 a year for three years for a slightly different service, but this offer was declined, and the service ceased in June, 1901.

(e.) In November, 1901, a subsidy of £500 a year commenced to be paid to the Clyde Shipping Company to assist them in continuing a weekly service on the South-Western Coast, between Cork, Schull, Bantry, Castletownbere, Sneem, and Dingle. The agreement with the Clyde Shipping Company for a subsidy of £500 expired on the 31st October, 1904. In September, 1904, the Company offered to continue the service for another year if the Board would increase their subsidy to £750 to meet the loss sustained in carrying it on. The Company were informed that the Board could not increase their subsidy, the steamer was withdrawn, and the subsidy terminated on the 30th April, 1905. In coming to the decision that they would not increase their subsidy, the Board were influenced not only by the want of funds for a larger subsidy, but by the fact that there had been considerable local opposition to their giving any assistance.

STATEMENT II.

THE GUARANTEE FUND UNDER THE LAND PURCHASE (IRELAND) ACTS.

(See Parliamentary Return No. 134—1903.)

(I.)—Payments to the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account and other Exchequer Grants which form the consistent parts of the Guarantee Fund under 54 & 55 Vict., c. 42, s. 5, and 61 & 62 Vict., c. 37, s. 63, as proposed to be amended by the Irish Land Bill, 1903:—

GRANT.	1902-03.	1903-02.	1903-03.	DESTINATION.
Cash portion of Fund:—	£	£	£	
Death Duty Grant under Finance Act, 1891, section 19. (Formerly Probate Duty Grant.)	226,732	242,845	225,696	To Local Authorities on relief of rates generally, and, as to the sum of £500,000, annually paid to the Royal Dublin Society and now to the Department of Agriculture for Horse and Cattle Breeding.
Exchequer Contribution under Section 5 of the Purchase of Land Act, 1891 (54 & 55 Vict., c. 42).	40,800	40,800	40,000	To Local Authorities.
Contingent portion of Fund:—				
Customs and Excise Duties:—				
(a) Department of Agriculture.	75,000	75,000	75,000	Formerly payable to Commissioners of National Education under section 3 of the 42 & 43 Vict., c. 69, now by 54 & 55 Vict., c. 42, s. 5, as a portion of the Department of Agriculture. Supplemented annually by Grants for Public Education.
(b) Intermediate Education.	73,000	65,805	61,250	To Board of Intermediate Education (51 & 52 Vict., c. 50, s. 25).
Rates and Contributions on land of Rates on Government property (54 & 55 Vict., c. 42, s. 1 (3)).	45,000	47,315	45,245	To Local Authorities; Annual Vote.
Model and National Schools (54 & 55 Vict., c. 42, s. 1 (2)).	1,120,186	1,182,208	1,109,800	To Commissioners of National Education; Annual Vote. Approximate figure for 1903-04.
Industrial Schools (54 & 55 Vict., c. 42, s. 1 (3)).	97,228	96,085	97,128	Grants in Aid of Maintenance, Annual Vote.
Payments to Local Taxation Account under Section 55 of the Land Purchase (Ireland) Act, 1891 (54 & 55 Vict., c. 42):—				
(a) Equivalent of Local Taxation Revenue under subsection 1 (4).	246,116	295,971	211,375	In relief of rates generally, and for the particular purposes specified in Section 55 of the Act of 1891, and Section 5 of the 54 & 55 Vict., c. 42.
(b) Annual Grant under subsection 1 (5).	70,800	70,000	72,600	
Total of Grants as present included in Guarantee Fund.	2,033,828	1,997,236	1,917,268	

(II.)—Additions to the Guarantee Fund made by the Irish Land Act, 1903.

GRANT.	AMOUNT.	DESTINATION.
Add to Cash portion of Fund:—	£	
Agricultural Grants.	72,000	To Local Authorities on relief of rates (Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1891, s. 45).
Development Grant.	100,000	For Education and other purposes (Ireland Development Grant Act, 1903).
Add to Contingent portion of Fund:—		
Church Disendowment Fund.	75,000	To Department of Agriculture under 51 & 52 Vict., c. 50, s. 12.
Total proposed additions to Fund (s. 55 & 56 of the Act of 1903).	247,000	

* This sum added to 1903-04, the amount of the Grants included in the Guarantee Fund for 1903-04 brings the total amount of the Guarantee Fund, as proposed, up to £2,264,268.

Note.—Under Section 40, Sub-Section 3, of the Irish Land Act, 1903 the charges of the Municipal Authorities in the above funds do not form part of the Guarantee Fund, and the local authorities as a guarantee will therefore fall short of £2,000,000.

STATEMENT III.—GUARANTEE FUND AS FIXED

Provisional Apportionment of

County	The Death Duty Grant			Agricultural Grant	Ireland Development Grant (Grants)	The Education Contribution, 184,508	Customs and Excise Duties (Indemnified) Grant	Rates and Contributions in lieu of Rates on Government Property
	Household Grants	Road Authorities	Agricultural Department					
Armagh	£ 5,552	£ 5,552	£ 221	£ 25,464	£ 5,552	£ 1,580	£ 2,585	£ 324
Armagh	5,549	5,575	112	17,585	2,661	757	861	315
Callow	3,531	3,536	45	11,357	860	425	636	165
Cavan	2,222	2,222	86	13,937	1,515	732	469	165
Clare	9,772	9,675	155	55,165	5,845	1,235	1,322	149
Cork	11,555	9,145	615	55,145	7,871	9,556	2,419	2,985
Down	7,753	5,675	184	55,615	5,763	1,275	724	465
Dumfries	9,715	9,715	261	55,555	5,543	1,365	1,114	865
Dublin	5,145	5,254	355	20,744	4,649	5,715	4,755	5,625
Fermanagh	1,755	2,055	43	21,799	1,471	511	475	225
Galway	6,875	2,554	155	31,582	5,225	1,575	1,567	785
Kerry	4,511	4,511	125	25,677	5,415	1,475	3,465	615
Kildare	2,545	1,661	87	15,745	1,661	662	1,171	4,055
Kilkenny	9,552	2,511	135	25,755	2,465	1,255	5,845	545
King's County	1,667	1,667	75	14,971	1,562	666	25	125
Leitrim	1,555	3,621	45	10,261	1,561	557	—	45
Limerick	4,741	3,555	141	41,655	5,555	1,665	5	25
Londonderry	1,664	3,555	355	16,875	1,667	661	615	55
Longford	1,155	721	45	5,841	765	425	515	515
Louth	1,751	1,667	75	12,751	1,424	522	1,352	615
Mayo	3,555	2,555	145	25,255	5,425	1,555	545	455
Meath	2,545	2,545	227	25,255	5,257	1,355	725	105
Monaghan	1,561	2,155	54	13,267	1,521	521	1,661	75
Queen's County	2,222	1,665	45	15,275	1,511	751	245	215
Roscommon	2,545	2,544	105	15,254	1,511	615	125	45
Sligo	1,665	1,755	75	14,555	1,571	775	1,564	875
Tipperary	4,465	4,971	355	16,837	4,371	1,565	2,755	1,115
Tyrone	2,254	4,365	354	24,771	2,254	1,165	1,477	605
Waterford	2,555	2,554	125	15,555	5,165	1,035	111	75
Wick	2,511	1,561	52	17,555	1,465	765	711	955
Wexford	2,481	2,481	124	24,945	2,345	1,085	1,247	565
Wiltshire	1,562	1,471	55	12,546	1,465	777	101	225
TOTAL	185,554	27,272	4,512	725,225	71,661	45,755	25,217	35,275

NOTE.—The above is the above of the Municipal Boroughs of Dublin, Cork, Belfast, Limerick,

STATEMENT IV.—Receipts and Expenditure for Bards.

	Teeling Corporation	Burtonport Corporation	Doonbeg Bay Corporation	Total
£ RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sale of Bards, Materials, &c.	4,805 5 8	11,265 5 9	1,310 10 5	17,380 11 1
Value of Bards on hands	55 5 0	225 5 0	475 5 0	755 5 0
Estimated Value of Plant, Buildings, and Materials.	—	330 5 0	255 5 0	585 5 0
	4,860 5 8	11,820 5 9	1,840 11 5	18,521 11 1

	Whole Bards	Half Bards	Quarter Bards
NOTE.—Numbers made at Teeling	21,271	861	2,822
" " Burtonport	20,125	1,465	925
" " Doonbeg Bay	6,535	16,426	—
Total Number of Bards	75,526	24,421	3,747

BY THE LORD LIEUTENANT IN THE YEAR 1906.

Shares of Counties in the Guarantee Fund.

Expenditure of the Government of National Education under Accounts headed "Model Schools," and "National Schools."	Grant in aid of the Maintenance of Children in Industrial Schools.	Local Government Grant in aid of Salaries of Teachers, &c.	Grant substituted for the Grant in aid of the Maintenance of Pupils in Laminar.	Relief Grants (Temporary Fund) (Agriculture and Technical Instruction Grants).	Grants and Expenditure (Agriculture and Technical Instruction) Grants.	Annual Amount.	Capitalized at thirty times the Annual Amount.	County.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
61,560	967	3,580	5,400	3,984	3,646	128,824	3,795,738	Ards
50,712	787	3,038	5,142	1,868	1,740	78,487	3,308,716	Armagh.
8,900	306	1,879	1,696	742	887	30,581	908,420	Cavan.
55,904	559	1,812	3,824	1,534	1,385	80,047	1,681,420	Cornwall.
38,506	1,840	3,645	4,018	3,560	3,489	91,026	2,794,720	Cork.
97,644	6,554	6,960	10,220	6,090	4,798	233,068	7,093,348	County.
46,111	841	5,381	6,785	2,158	2,402	84,389	3,018,878	Down.
50,093	641	5,142	5,542	2,814	3,108	138,308	3,566,600	Dublin.
39,743	4,814	4,312	5,307	3,348	3,738	88,846	3,668,360	Fermanagh.
37,181	144	1,500	2,804	1,385	1,396	43,721	1,351,000	Galway.
48,484	3,455	4,620	6,654	3,498	3,777	103,067	3,093,639	Kildare.
12,446	800	2,135	3,434	1,100	1,267	46,600	1,406,700	Kilkenny.
22,608	1,846	2,047	4,304	1,943	2,108	71,482	3,148,900	King's County.
14,366	1,126	1,844	3,721	1,093	1,237	45,043	1,351,263	Lancaster.
30,585	585	1,375	3,222	843	908	45,687	1,344,913	Limerick.
35,077	1,084	3,605	5,582	3,385	3,868	102,403	3,072,093	London.
18,329	388	1,968	3,489	1,479	1,616	65,922	1,997,660	Longford.
11,084	881	942	3,083	560	365	29,330	879,900	Louth.
14,385	1,683	1,387	3,432	1,392	1,217	48,104	1,484,900	Mayo.
50,085	2,562	3,172	3,144	1,360	1,104	104,789	3,142,800	Meath.
39,381	193	2,792	3,308	1,779	3,363	66,906	3,071,968	Monaghan.
31,803	887	1,806	3,973	1,376	1,618	51,914	1,558,220	Queen's County.
14,828	327	1,659	3,812	1,246	1,368	48,974	1,469,538	Down.
20,608	1,935	2,708	4,435	1,414	1,376	67,418	2,033,440	Sligo.
25,845	3,114	3,878	3,822	1,308	1,595	88,483	3,054,450	Tipperary.
40,300	3,545	4,005	7,722	3,546	3,619	130,838	3,926,140	Tyrone.
41,374	894	2,724	5,087	3,634	3,824	90,698	2,621,940	Waterford.
16,016	703	2,580	3,699	1,894	1,668	46,836	1,417,080	Westmeath.
18,060	1,109	1,785	3,693	1,740	1,579	51,338	1,548,140	Wexford.
20,060	2,131	3,444	4,746	1,736	1,934	67,848	2,035,440	Wick.
16,487	1,483	1,596	2,087	1,261	1,343	42,878	1,285,440	Wick.
985,571	56,521	87,111	160,704	60,680	67,946	3,614,440	35,615,200	

London, and, Waterloo, to which the Act does not apply, are excluded from the figures given.

making at Board's Cooperages to 31st March, 1906.

	Teeling Cooperages.	Burtonport Cooperages.	Downing's Bay Cooperages.	Total.
£	£	£	£	£
II. EXPENDITURE				
Wages, Materials, Fuel, and General Trading Expenses.	4,131 35 10	18,101 6 8	3,824 4 1	16,057 6 7
Cost of Instruction—				
Wages of Apprentices and Foremen.	875 0 0	1,207 0 8	435 9 0	2,517 0 0
Cost of Management (Estimated).	108 0 8	250 0 8	75 0 0	433 0 8
	5,114 35 18	19,558 6 8	4,334 4 1	19,907 6 7

STATEMENT V.

The number of Large-decked Fishing Boats built for or purchased by the Congested Districts Board, the description, tonnage, price, where built, and the dates of their construction.

Name of Boat.	Description.	Official Tonnage.	Price Paid £	Where Built.	Year when Built.	Length. Feet.	Breadth. Feet.	Depth. Feet.
St. Aidan	do.	50	144	*Killybegs	1905	42½	15½	6½
St. Andrew	do.	10	121	Scotland	1898	44	14	7 8"
St. Andrew I.	do.	10	95	do.	1895	39	12	5
St. Andrew II.	do.	16	143	*Killybegs	1900	39	13	7 8"
St. Anna	do.	12	140	Scotland	1898	42½	12½	4½
St. Anthony	do.	21	179	*Killybegs	1906	42	12 6"	5 1"
St. Augustine	do.	28	207	*Kilkeena	1904	47 6"	14 6"	8 8"
St. Augustin	do.	23	255	" do.	1905	50	12½	5½
St. Barbara	do.	10	113	Scotland	1896	33½	12	4
St. Bernard	do.	20	149	do.	1898	42½	12½	4½
St. Beronice	do.	9	96	do.	1896	38½	12	4½
St. Brice	do.	On Stocks.		Killybegs	1906	42	14	5 1½"
St. Catharine	do.	10	125	Scotland	1907	40	12	
St. Catherine	do.	15	144	*Killybegs	1901	42	12 6"	6 6"
St. Columba II.	do.	11	123	Scotland	1907	41	13	6
St. Columbkille	do.	18	170	*Killybegs	1901	42	13 1"	6 6"
St. Columba	do.	19	137	Scotland	1898	42½	13½	5½
St. Columba	do.	20	270	*Kilkeena	1905	49½	14½	6½
St. Dymphna	do.	26	209	*Killybegs	1906	40	14	8 2"
St. Eustace	do.	Not yet paid for		Scotland	1906	49 6"	14	5 1½
St. Ewen	do.	20	118	do.	1897	42 6"	14 6"	6 1"
St. Ewan I.	do.	19	101	do.	1895	Wrecked.		
St. Ewan II.	do.	30	184	*Killybegs	1905	49½	14½	6½
St. Fian	do.	10	136	Scotland	1896	42½	12½	6½
St. Fionan	do.	10	97	do.	1896	Wrecked.		
St. Francis	do.	13	127	do.	1897	41	13	6
St. Ita	do.	Not yet delivered.		do.	1905	49	14½	5½
St. James	do.	18	134	do.	1898	42½	12½	6½
St. John	do.	15	160	do.	1905	44½	12½	6½
St. Malachy	do.	10	137	do.	1898	42½	12½	6½
St. Mark	do.	10	133	do.	1898	42½	12½	6½
St. Mary	do.	26	184	*Kilkeena	1903	42	12½	6
St. M. Brecon	do.	10	125	Scotland	1897	40	12	7
St. Michael	do.	10	141	do.	1904	42½	12½	4½
St. Michael	do.	8	37	do.	1895	38½	12	6
St. Niall	do.	10	137	do.	1905	42½	12½	6½
St. Niall	do.	10	149	do.	1898	42½	12½	6½
St. Paul	do.	10	189	do.	1898	42½	12½	6½
St. Peter	do.	9	86	do.	1896	38½	12	4
St. Rion	do.	12	Not yet delivered.	Arklew	1906	46	14½	6
St. Stephen	do.	27	176	Scotland	1904	49½	14	5½
St. Vincent	do.	21	179	*Killybegs	1905	40	13	5½
St. Wandle	do.	24	176	" do.	1904	44½	13½	4½
St. Devan	do.	10	157	Scotland	1898	Wrecked.		
Abbotshay	do.	18	75	do.	1902	49	12½	5½
Baginb	do.	10	137	do.	1896	42½	12½	6½
Delander	do.	24	176	do.	1905	49	14	5½
Donnell Head	do.	26	188	do.	1905	42½	11½	5½
Dunlop Head	do.	Not yet delivered.		do.	1905	48	14½	5
Brigal	do.	11	163	do.	1903	38 6"	12½	5
Donnell Head	do.	26	186	do.	1905	49½	14½	5½
Olton Head	do.	25	184	do.	1905	45½	14½	4½
Ham Head	do.	6	111	do.	1903	36 7½	12 7"	4
Lernane Head	do.	Not yet delivered.		do.	1906	49	14 6"	5
Lily	do.	10	122	do.	1901	42	14 8"	5
Lord Francis	do.	16	141	*Killybegs	1905	42½	13 8"	6 6"
Malin Head	do.	22	173	" do.	1905	42½	12	5½
Malin Head	do.	22	250	*Kilkeena	1905	44 2½	13 1½	5 1½
Malin Head	do.	15	119	Scotland	1906	40	13 1"	6 6"
Shanrock	do.	28	203	" do.	1904	47½	14½	5½
Shanrock	do.	28	203	" do.	1905	48	15	5½
Star of the Sea	do.	32	243	*Kilkeena	1905	48	15	5½
Town Head	do.	Not yet delivered.		Scotland	1905	49	14 6"	5
Violet	do.	10	88	do.	1901	39	11 9"	4 4"
Amethyst	do.	11	174	Pool	1894	37	11	7½
Brecon	do.	12	199	do.	1895	38	12	7½
Carrigatrick	do.	14	194	do.	1891	39½	11½	7½
Delahay	do.	12	172	do.	1899	33	11½	7½
Donnell	do.	13	170	*Hyndry	1899	42	12½	7½
Fingula	do.	14	227	Pool	1891	49	13	7½
Ingolara	do.	11	162	Portavogie	1899	38	11	7½
St. Brendan	do.	18	243	Pool	1894	40	11	7½
St. Dennis	do.	15	212	Portavogie	1899	40½	11½	7½
St. Dennis	do.	12	189	do.	1899	41 6"	11 3½	7 3½
St. Dennis	do.	14	185	do.	1899	38	11½	7½

10,514

* Note.—In these cases the Board incurred further expense by providing instructions to boat-builders.

STATEMENT VI.—Rates in the £ for each of the years 1900 to 1907 in Congested Districts Counties under the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act. (See Evidence, p. 5.)

DISTRICT.	Act under which Rate was levied.	1900-1	1901-2	1902-3	1903-4	1904-5	1905-6	1906-7
Class.	1899 and 1902.	—	1	—	1	1	1	1
Cork.	1899, 1901, and 1902.	—	1	1	1	1	1	1
Donegal.	1899 and 1901.	—	1	1	1	1	1	1
Galway.	1899, 1904, 1905, and 1906.	—	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kerry.	1899, 1904, 1905, and 1906.	—	1	1	1	1	1	1
Letterkenny.	1900 and 1902.	—	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mayo.	1899 and 1902.	—	1	1	1	1	1	1
Monaghan.	1904 and 1907.	—	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sligo.	1899, 1900, and 1901.	—	1	1	1	1	1	1

STATEMENT VII.—Showing for each year the Price and the number of Years' Purchase paid by the Board for Estate bought by them up to 1st September, 1906, distinguishing the Price paid for Tenanted and Untenanted Land.

	No. of Estates Purchased.	Year ending 31st March.	Tenanted Land.								Untenanted Land.		
			First Term. Estate fixed before August, 1905.		Second Term. Estate fixed since August, 1905.		Non-Tenant.		Total Price including Arrears.	Average No. of years' purchase including Arrears.	Price.	No. of years' purchase.	
			Price paid including arrears.	No. of years' purchase.	Price paid including arrears.	No. of years' purchase.	Price paid including arrears.	No. of years' purchase.					
			£	12½	£		£	£		£			
	1	1900	6,377	12½	—	—	—	—	4,377	11½	3,840	20	
	—	1901	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	1	1902	—	—	—	—	3,678	9½	3,678	11	1,390	15	
	—	1903	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	1	1904	3,688	15	—	—	—	—	3,688	15	1,806	32	
	6	1905	11,731	11½	—	—	5,999	22½	11,731	10½	9,229	20½	
	8	1906	—	—	1,622	16½	196,645	30½	202,567	13½	30,138	25½	
	7	1907	19,309	30½	1,622	22	6,987	34	26,918	15½	22,800	16½	
	7	1908	6,649	10½	—	—	3,717	26	7,796	15½	12,200	19½	
	8	1909	25,822	14½	4,800	35	8,528	30½	39,150	16½	22,280	20½	
	10	1910	8,711	17	6,419	39½	6,300	30½	21,430	17½	17,817	22½	
	16	1911	24,646	17½	13,588	29½	63,070	38	101,304	24½	71,845	26½	
	46	1912	203,624	20	108,613	27½	63,625	18½	275,862	20½	155,622	18	
	26	1913	305,722	19½	61,648	31½	67,316	18	334,686	20½	205,235	27½	
SUMMARY.													
Act 1891,	—	2	—	8,206	15½	—	—	3,678	9½	11,093	11½	8,670	18½
Act 1900,	—	45	—	79,646	19	17,559	30½	117,204	15½	419,350	24½	21,586	28
Act 1901,	—	94	—	446,807	19½	262,082	31½	371,181	19½	338,119	20½	204,140	27½

APPENDIX III.

Memorandum and Tables handed in by Mr. J. R. O'Brien in connection with the evidence given by him before the Commission.

Memorandum D.—Powers of the Congested Districts Board.

The Board are empowered to take such steps as they think proper, either directly or indirectly for improving Congested Districts in connection with the following subjects or matters, namely :—

1. Agricultural Development.
2. Forestry.
3. Breeding of Live Stock and Poultry.
4. Sale of Seed Potatoes and Seed Oats.
5. Migration, Enlargement and Amalgamation of Small Holdings and Improvement of Estates.
6. Emigration.
7. Fishing, including the Construction of Piers and Harbours and Industries connected with Fishing.
8. Weaving and Spinning,
and
Any other suitable Industries.

The original powers conferred on the Board are contained in Sections 37, 38, and 39 of the Act of 1891.

Under these provisions the Board can proceed directly or indirectly, and can make gifts or loans to any person, and subject to such conditions as the Board consider expedient.

In connection with the sale of seed potatoes and seed oats, it is, however, stipulated that the seed shall be sold for ready money and where such price can be obtained for same for not less than the cost price of the seed, including all expenses for cartage, storage, or otherwise, except so far as such cost may be defrayed out of gifts specially given to the Board for the purpose. These statutory directions are of importance, as they indicate that it was not intended by the framers of the Act that the funds of the Board should be applied for the relief of temporary distress caused by the failure of the potato crop.

Under Section 35 (6) of the Act of 1891, the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, and the Sea and Coast Fishery Fund, including all moneys due on foot of Loans, were placed at the disposal of the Board for the purposes of the Act, but by an omission in the Act the necessary powers of recovery of the Loans possessed by the Board of Works, the previous Trustees of the Fund, were not transferred to the Board. These necessary powers were, however, conferred on the Board in the following year by the Public Works Loans Act.

The powers of the Board in connection with migration, and the amalgamation and enlargement of small holdings, have been gradually extended by successive Acts of Parliament.

The following are the Acts known as the Congested Districts Board Acts :—

- Purchase of Land Act, 1891.—Part II.
Public Works Loan Act, 1892 (Sec. 4).
Congested Districts Board Act, 1893.
Congested Districts Board Act, 1894.
Land Law Act, 1896.—Part IV.
Congested Districts Board Act, 1899.
Congested Districts Board Act, 1901.
Congested Districts Board Act, 1901 (No. 2).
Marine Works Act, 1902.
Irish Land Act, 1903.—Part II.
Irish Land Act, 1904.

Under Sections 37, 38 and 39 of the Act of 1891 the Board were empowered to aid the amalgamation of small holdings and the migration of persons from the Congested Districts, or from any Electoral Division, the total rateable valuation of which when divided by number of the population gives a sum less than thirty shillings per head. It was also provided that the Board might recommend the Land Commission to facilitate the amalgamation of small holdings, the Board supplying the necessary funds. The rateable valuation of a holding increased by amalgamation under these provisions must not exceed £30.

These provisions were imperative. They contemplated dealing with single holdings on Estates, the Ownership of which was not vested in the Board, and legal difficulties arose in consequence, particularly where the tenancy was a Judicial one.

Under Section 39, the Land Commission were authorized to acquire and hold land for the purposes of the Act dealing with Congested Districts, and to place such land under the control of the Congested Districts Board on such terms and conditions as they deemed expedient, and under Section 40 (5) any property given to the Board, and any investments made by the Board, were held in trust for the Board by the Land Commission.

The Board made their first purchase of an Estate under these provisions in 1893, when they acquired the French Estate, in County Roscommon, but there was so much delay and complications caused by the formalities necessary owing to the legal Estate being vested in the Land Commission that the Board sought and obtained an amending Act.

Migration and
Improvement of
Estates.

Purchase of Land
Act, 1891.

Congested Districts
Board Act, 1893.

This Act—the Congested Districts Board Act, 1893—enabled the Board to nominate two of their members to act as their Trustees, and to hold lands and deal with them as directed by the Board.

This Act is still in force, and all land and securities are now held by the Trustees on behalf of the Board. This Act also provided that the Board should be Landlords within the meaning of the Land Purchase Acts, 1870-1891, of all lands acquired by them. Previous to this enactment the Land Commission held that they could not make an advance to the Board upon resale of an Estate, as the Board, as originally constituted, were not Landlords within the meaning of the Act.

Congested Districts
Board Act, 1896.

When the Board sold the French Estate to the tenants the Land Commission retained a portion of the Purchase Money as a Guarantee deposit, and as this arrangement crippled the Board's resources, an amending Act was passed in 1894, which enabled the Board to give a Guarantee by a charge on their income in lieu of a Guarantee deposit.

Under the provisions of the original Act of 1891 as amended by the Act of 1893, the Board purchased the Clare Island Estate in County Mayo, and the Leonard Estate in County Galway. The Purchase Money for the two estates, amounting to £10,500, had to be provided out of the Board's ordinary income of £41,350, as the Church Surplus Grant was the only fund available for the purpose up to the passing of the Land Purchase Act, 1896.

Section 40 (5) of the original Act of 1891 authorised the Board, with Treasury sanction, to borrow out of moneys available for Local Loans in Ireland on the security of the annual income of the Church Surplus Grant such sum, as having regard to the liabilities of such income for the purposes of the Guarantee Fund, the Treasury considered could be properly borrowed, without danger, to the security given by the Guarantee Fund.

Except as regards a loan of £10,000 obtained from the Board of Works in 1898 for general purposes, it was not until 1900 that Treasury sanction was obtained to the exercise of these powers. In that year sanction was given to the Board to borrow from the Board of Works for the purpose of meeting expenditure on Estate Improvement Works pending resale up to the total sum of £50,000, not more than £20,000 being borrowed in any one year.

Land Law Act, 1896.

Under Section 43 (1) of the Act of 1896, the Board were empowered to obtain advances of Land Stock from the Land Commission for the purchase of land to the extent of twenty-five times the Board's income derived from the interest on the Church Surplus Grant of £1,500,000, apportioned according to Census on the basis of population of the Congested Districts. This worked out at a maximum sum of £1,681,350 for the eight Congested Districts Counties. The Land Stock was advanced to the Board as if they were a tenant purchasing his holding under the Purchase Acts at a 4 per cent. annuity, including interest at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The requirement that the Board should provide a Sinking Fund of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the advances, while the Estate was on hands greatly crippled the Board's income, and the requirement was abandoned under the Act of 1903.

As the Board had to pay the Vendor the Purchase Money of the Estate in cash when the price of the Stock dropped below par, the deficit had to be provided out of the Board's income, but as the Stock in the earlier transactions was selling at a premium, the net result was a small profit to the Board.

These advances of Land Stock were secured on the annual income of £41,350, and not on the land purchased, and the annuities were deducted by the Land Commission from the Board's income of £41,350, interest on the Church Surplus Grant, which the Board received through that Department.

The Land Commission would only advance Stock for the purchase of the Landlord's interest in the land, although from the terms of Sub-section 1 and 7 of Section 43 of the Act, 1896, it would appear that the purchase of a tenant's interest was contemplated by the Act where the Board had already acquired the fee.

The absence of borrowing powers in connection with the purchase of tenant's interest seriously hampers the Board's operations.

Upon resale of the Estates, the advances of Land Stock to the tenants for the purchase of their holdings were not handed over to the Board, but the amount was "written off" the debt due by the Board to the Land Commission in respect of the county in which the Estates were situated.

Under Section 45 (6) of the Act of 1896 the Land Commission were prohibited from making any advance in respect of any purchase by a tenant from the Board of a small holding, as defined in the Purchase of Land Act of 1891, and Section 42 of the Act of 1891, defines a small holding as "a holding of the rateable value of less than £10, or any higher sum fixed by the Congested Districts Board."

As many of the holdings in the Congested Districts did not come up to this standard, and as the Board could not get sufficient unencumbered land to enlarge them, the Board had either to retain them until land became available, or sell them directly to the occupiers on similar terms as those given by the Land Commission to tenants purchasing through them. If the latter course were adopted generally the Board's operations would have had to be confined within very narrow limits, as the repayment of any capital expenditure on improvement works included in the sale price paid by the tenants would have been spread over a long period.

Congested Districts
Board Act, 1899.

This difficulty as regards not being able to sell small holdings through the Land Commission, was got over by the Congested Districts Board Act, 1899, which repealed the prohibiting clause of the Act of 1896.

In connection with the sale of holdings under the Purchase Acts the security required by the State for the advances made may be usefully considered. The security is as follows:—

- (a) The land which includes the interest of both landlord and tenant, and consequently leaves in most cases a margin equivalent to the value of the tenant right, the advances made by the Land Commission representing the value of the landlord's interest only.
- (b) The Guarantee given by the Board as a charge on their income for the payment of the annual instalments.
- (c) The Guarantee Fund created under the 5th Section of the Land Purchase Act, 1891.

The amending Act of 1899, in addition to the important provision as to "small holdings," gave further facilities to the Board to purchase Estates for sale in the Land Judge's Court, and enabled the Land Commission to make advances of Stock for the redemption of Head Rents and other superior interests subject to which some of the Estates had been purchased, and which otherwise would have had to be redeemed out of the Board's ordinary income.

Congested Districts Board Act, 1899.

Two Amending Acts were passed in 1901. One extended the limit of advances to be made to the Board by the Land Commission for the purchase of Estates, to fifty times the share of the County in the interest on the Church Surplus Grant instead of, as provided in Section 43, Sub-section 2, of the Act of 1895, and Section 4, Sub-section 1, of the Act of 1899, and the other facilities the Board in stripping and improving an Estate by enabling them, at the request of three-fourths of the tenants on the Estate, to acquire compulsorily the holding of a tenant who refuses to fall in with the arrangements as approved by a majority of the tenants. This latter Act also enabled the Board to enter on a holding not subject to a judicial tenancy in order to arrange for the cutting of turf, &c., for the benefit of other tenants, as this right previously only existed in regard to judicial tenancies. This was a useful provision, as it enables the Board to overcome serious difficulties experienced in the apportionment of turbary, and the construction of Estate roads. The Act further provides that where the Board have purchased land outside a Congested Districts County, the Lord Lieutenant may by order in Council declare that the land shall be treated as part of the Congested Districts County.

Congested Districts Board Act, 1901.

The above series of Acts represent the code under which the Board carried on their operations in connection with migration and the improvement of Estates up to the passing of the Land Act of 1903, which made some important changes in their powers and resources.

The Land Act of 1903 contains the following provision for facilitating the operations of the Congested Districts Board:—Section 72 removed the distinction between the Congested Districts and the other Districts in Ireland as regards the amount of advances to be obtained for the purchase of Estates in the several Congested Districts Counties, and placed the Board in a similar position to the Land Commission in this respect, as well as in regard to the payment of a bonus to Vendor.

Irish Land Act, 1903

It also enables the Board to obtain the necessary advances for cash in lieu of Land Stock from the Land Commission for the purchase of Estates upon payment of interest at 2½ per cent. without any sinking fund until the expiration of five years. It also enables the Board to receive back in cash from the Land Commission the difference between the Purchase Price and the Selling Price of an Estate where the Board sell an Estate at an "enhanced value."

Previous to this the Board did not get back the "enhanced value" until the entire debt due in respect of the County in which the Estate was situated had been paid off.

Section 73 removed the interest on the Church Surplus Grant, forming part of the Board's income from the Guarantee Fund, and then enabled the Board to use it as a Guarantee upon a resale of an Estate, as provided in Sections 80 and 81. This Guarantee enables the Land Commission to dispense with an inspection of the Estates as regards value, and to sanction the advances to the tenants upon a Certificate from the Board.

Section 74 enables the Board to hold untenanted land to the capital value of £1,337,000, being 50 times the interest on the Church Surplus Grant.

Section 75 enables the Board to sell parcels of land not required for tenants of holdings in a Congested Districts County to any tenants or proprietors of holdings not exceeding 25 in rateable value on an estate adjacent to, or in the neighbourhood of, that land, or to any sons of such tenants.

Section 76 enables the Vendor of an Estate to buy back his demands by means of an advance not exceeding one-third of the Purchase-money, or £20,000, whichever is the less.

Section 77 gives further facilities for purchasing Estates in the Land Judge's Court.

Section 78 gives the Board additional powers in making regulations as to turbary.

Section 79 provides for the Estate Commissioners preparing Agreements for the purchase of Estates on behalf of the Board, and for vesting the Estate subsequently in the Board.

It also provides for the Purchase Money being distributed by the Land Commission.

These important provisions relieve the Board of the responsibility and expense of investigating in Title and distributing the Purchase Money.

Section 82 amends the Congested Districts Board Act, 1901, by enabling the Board to acquire compulsorily the holding of the tenant at the request of three-fourths in number and rateable value of the tenants on any townlands which would be affected instead of on the entire Estate.

Section 83 enables the Board to resume possession of a holding in pursuance of Sub-Section 6 of Section 5 of the Act of 1881 for the purposes of migration and the enlargement of holdings in addition to the purposes mentioned in that sub-section.

Section 85 repeals Section 18 of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act, 1899, which prohibited the Department from expending the funds placed at their disposal by Part II. of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, 1899, in the Congested Districts.

J. R. O'BRIEN.

17th August, 1906

APPENDIX III.—TABLES.

I.—RETURN SHOWING THE RATIO OF POPULATION TO VALUATION IN THE
ELECTORAL DIVISIONS SCHEDULED AS "CONGESTED" UNDER THE
PURCHASE OF LAND (IRELAND) ACT, 1891.

MEMORANDUM.

The Electoral Divisions mentioned herein are those scheduled as "Congested" under section 36 of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891. That section placed on the list in certain counties, all Electoral Divisions in which the Valuation per head of the Population in 1891 was less than £1 10s. (with a few specially scheduled by the Lord Lieutenant). Where the average Valuation per head of the Population in 1901 is now £1 10s. or over, the names of Electoral Divisions are printed in italics. The population and valuation averages for 1891 are inserted merely for purposes of comparison with the figures for the last two decades. The increase in the valuation per head of the Population is mainly caused by the decrease in population owing to emigration, but partly by the small increase in valuation during the last ten years.

The Poor Rates are taken from the Local Government Board Return of Local Taxation for 1900-1901, and are quoted to show the relative Poor Rate taxation in the congested districts during that financial year. It will be noted that the taxation is very high in many of the poorest Districts, e.g., Belmullet.

F. W. D. MITCHELL,

Secretary.

25 Rutland Square,
Dublin, 6th March, 1903.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD FOR IRELAND.

LIST OF ELECTORAL DIVISIONS Scheduled as "Congested," showing ratio of Population to Valuation in respect of the Years 1881, 1891, and 1901, also Poor Rates for the Year ended 31st March, 1901.

COUNTY DONEGAL.

Union and Electoral Division.	Population, 1881.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1881.	Population, 1891.	Valuation, 1891.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1891.	Population, 1901.	Valuation, 1901.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1901.	Poor Rates for year ended 31st March, 1901.	
									On Agricultural Land.	On Other Holdings.
		£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.	In the £ s. d.	In the £ s. d.
UNION OF TRISHOWEN.										
Armagh, ...	2,239	0 10 2	1,950	1,608	0 16 1	1,414	1,516	1 0 0	3 1	2 0
Ballyliffe, ...	1,975	0 18 8	1,896	1,537	1 0 9	1,453	1,543	1 2 9		
Cornabough, ...	2,284	1 4 1	2,154	2,700	1 5 8	2,073	2,502	1 8 0		
Carthage, ...	1,742	0 14 2	1,492	1,939	0 16 8	1,617	1,934	0 17 4		
Cullagh, ...	1,626	1 8 1	1,814	2,286	1 10 8	1,428	2,228	1 12 10		
Deerings, ...	1,336	1 1 2	1,334	1,534	1 1 1	1,320	1,445	1 1 10		
Doonbeg, ...	1,797	0 18 0	1,684	1,921	0 14 4	1,628	1,107	0 14 10		
Glenties, ...	1,123	0 19 10	1,004	1,111	1 4 7	799	1,114	1 7 11		
Glenties, ...	1,839	1 5 2	1,730	2,130	1 4 7	1,544	2,175	1 8 1		
Glenties, ...	1,373	0 12 0	1,225	829	0 15 6	1,260	844	0 13 4		
Ilke, ...	954	0 10 0	829	930	1 0 8	911	829	1 0 7		
Minish, ...	1,261	1 4 4	1,292	1,679	1 5 2	1,132	1,641	1 8 11		
Reahilly, ...	1,337	0 19 6	1,397	1,597	1 0 11	1,694	1,560	1 1 7		
Strath, ...	1,361	1 3 9	942	1,400	1 8 5	894	1,422	1 13 9		
Tremore, ...										
Totals,	22,612	10 19 11	20,706	21,922	1 1 7	19,651	27,394	1 8 4		
UNION OF STRANORLAR.										
Altapass, ...	1,691	1 0 0	1,457	1,018	1 2 0	1,378	1,075	1 6 2	3 0	4 6
Cloghan, ...	2,372	0 17 8	2,088	2,462	0 19 3	2,334	2,547	1 1 9		
Doonagh, ...	828	1 4 1	675	1,057	1 10 9	690	1,094	1 14 3		
Galtee, ...	1,071	1 6 9	942	1,225	1 14 5	481	770	1 17 5		
Lettamore, ...	625	0 17 8	540	1,393	1 8 10	829	1,428	2 15 2		
Monaghan, ...			340	374	1 2 0	311	389	1 3 2		
Totals,	7,587	11 2 1	6,453	7,632	1 5 7	5,618	7,869	1 7 0		
UNION OF DUNFANAGHY.										
Ards, ...	812	1 15 6	774	1,423	1 16 9	688	1,467	2 3 7	3 11	6 7
Crossnacree, ...	751	0 15 6	692	781	0 14 5	738	579	0 15 10		
Crossnacree, ...	1,104	0 15 2	977	822	0 17 0	1,000	828	0 13 7		
Crossnacree, ...	2,619	0 16 6	2,626	2,511	0 18 11	2,308	2,022	0 19 7		
Donagh, ...	586	0 15 10	508	620	1 0 10	525	553	1 0 9		
Donagh, ...	1,600	1 4 0	1,790	2,406	1 7 3	1,571	2,637	1 8 2		
Donagh, ...	1,642	0 11 2	1,615	797	0 8 3	1,389	890	0 12 7		
Donagh, ...	2,290	0 8 5	1,383	890	0 10 5	2,344	927	0 8 3		
Gortahork, ...	3,314	0 7 3	3,183	1,415	0 7 0	3,123	1,281	0 8 2		
Maghera, ...	1,863	0 5 5	2,015	808	0 5 0	1,805	527	0 5 11		
Totals,	16,721	10 15 10	15,675	11,607	0 14 4	13,781	11,422	0 15 0		
UNION OF MILFORD.										
Cashin, ...	1,207	0 15 8	1,288	945	0 15 0	1,254	1,097	0 16 5	3 1	5 5
Cashin, ...	1,111	1 7 8	1,022	1,377	1 8 10	970	1,044	1 11 8		
Cashin, ...	1,437	0 15 2	1,412	1,102	0 15 5	1,298	1,067	0 16 10		
Cashin, ...	1,784	0 12 5	1,704	1,146	0 13 0	1,644	1,158	0 14 0		
Cashin, ...	1,467	0 16 0	1,805	1,186	0 17 0	1,254	1,202	0 17 5		
Cashin, ...	952	0 14 4	865	684	0 16 2	740	650	0 16 8		
Cashin, ...	227	1 2 3	791	1,064	1 3 13	727	1,013	1 6 4		
Cashin, ...	305	0 18 7	487	449	0 19 11	455	484	1 1 6		
Cashin, ...	1,032	0 17 9	1,008	810	0 19 6	826	972	1 3 5		
Cashin, ...	986	0 19 11	918	965	1 1 3	836	804	0 18 7		
Cashin, ...	1,381	0 11 1	1,183	707	0 12 0	1,342	804	0 18 7		
Cashin, ...	1,290	0 16 0	1,216	1,016	0 17 1	1,284	1,016	0 16 4		
Totals,	14,663	10 17 5	13,376	11,808	0 17 7	12,724	12,602	0 18 1		

* Included by Order of the Lord Lieutenant.

† Average.

COUNTY DONEGAL—continued.

Union and Electoral Division.	Population, 1881.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1881.	Population, 1886.	Valuation, 1881.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1886.	Population, 1891.	Valuation, 1891.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1891.	Poor Rates for year ended 31st March, 1891.	
									On Agricultural Land.	On Other Holdings.
UNION OF LETTERKENNY.										
Church Hill, ...	524	1 2 8	795	1,046	1 6 4	738	1,070	1 9 3	2 2	2 1
Garden,* ...	281	1 18 8	386	707	1 19 10	357	768	2 2 0		
Billymoyry, ...	880	1 2 8	730	980	1 7 1	670	984	1 9 1		
Seacor, ...	580	1 3 7	832	869	1 2 5	309	895	1 5 4		
Templemagua, ...	1,884	1 0 8	1,667	1,619	1 2 5	1,393	1,906	1 7 4		
Totals, ...	4,458	12 5 6	3,748	5,116	1 7 3	2,468	6,128	1 9 4		
UNION OF OLENTIE.										
Amagary, ...	3,067	0 5 11	3,927	608	0 4 1	3,090	628	0 4 1	2 2	2 1
Asco, ...	1,335	0 7 4	1,164	462	0 7 11	1,306	479	0 6 9		
Arion, ...	1,829	0 15 4	1,615	1,150	0 17 8	1,985	1,444	0 18 5		
Crovey, ...	696	0 8 2	470	130	0 5 5	454	186	0 5 8		
Cooknaghy, ...	497	0 11 5	486	283	0 12 8	479	285	0 11 9		
Crooknaghy, ...	445	1 2 30	445	504	1 5 1	377	505	1 10 11		
Deven, ...	1,225	0 19 4	1,164	1,261	1 1 8	1,074	1,250	1 4 6		
Donagh, ...	434	0 5 9	615	145	0 6 10	368	181	0 8 2		
Donagh, ...	1,462	0 3 2	1,385	508	0 2 2	1,811	685	0 16 0		
Felton, ...	560	0 12 8	794	538	0 13 3	703	567	0 15 4		
Glenamaddy, ...	1,888	0 7 11	1,800	751	0 8 4	1,764	779	0 8 9		
Glenagh, ...	1,603	0 12 6	1,487	1,005	0 12 6	1,968	1,600	0 14 7		
Glenahilly, ...	1,201	0 8 6	982	419	0 3 5	886	454	0 10 2		
Glenahilly, ...	9,799	0 13 9	9,479	1,885	0 15 1	2,432	1,967	0 17 2		
Grady, ...	1,294	0 14 4	1,159	907	0 15 7	1,025	999	0 17 8		
Inchmahon, ...	531	0 9 3	514	346	0 9 7	485	541	0 9 11		
Kilone, ...	1,577	0 9 11	1,562	745	0 11 2	1,284	788	0 12 8		
Killybeg, ...	1,293	0 8 6	1,211	419	0 10 5	1,126	629	0 10 11		
Killybeg, ...	5,526	0 19 30	5,133	2,448	1 3 8	5,027	2,730	1 3 11		
Lagymore, ...	1,236	0 18 1	1,154	804	0 15 3	925	865	0 18 0		
Lethamstown, ...	9,053	0 7 10	1,900	804	0 8 6	1,802	821	0 9 0		
Meas, ...	749	1 0 3	627	755	1 3 16	849	770	1 8 6		
Magary, ...	2,485	0 6 9	2,232	541	0 7 4	2,168	854	0 7 10		
Mulhob, ...	968	0 10 1	770	479	0 12 7	481	522	0 14 6		
Mulhob, ...	589	0 16 6	544	465	0 17 9	549	487	0 19 1		
Rutland, ...	2,784	0 6 2	2,642	865	0 6 6	2,913	1,580	0 7 2		
Townlands, ...	488	0 12 2	680	306	0 12 3	469	593	0 12 1		
Totals, ...	37,551	10 18 8	34,915	26,436	0 11 11	33,191	21,519	0 12 10		
UNION OF DONEGAL.										
Ballynag, ...	1,265	0 11 9	1,158	765	0 12 2	1,068	776	0 14 11	2 2	4 2
Ballynag, ...	1,697	1 0 2	942	1,650	1 2 3	815	1,553	1 3 10		
Clogher, ...	1,315	1 1 11	1,029	1,439	1 7 2	947	1,481	1 11 3		
Cooknaghy, ...	1,985	0 14 5	1,683	899	0 16 7	931	900	0 18 1		
Donagh, ...	1,477	1 14 1	1,237	2,674	1 17 4	1,462	2,614	2 1 6		
Donagh, ...	1,605	0 15 0	1,449	1,205	0 16 8	1,239	1,232	0 19 4		
Donagh, ...	781	1 4 4	809	876	1 9 9	906	879	1 14 8		
Donagh, ...	925	1 6 6	894	927	1 8 2	946	701	1 11 8		
Donagh, ...	1,698	1 1 11	1,462	1,850	1 4 11	1,267	1,912	1 5 5		
Donagh, ...	1,025	1 6 1	1,474	2,118	1 8 50	1,541	2,124	1 11 9		
Donagh, ...	482	2 0 10	546	861	2 8 9	884	1,027	2 12 1		
Donagh, ...	2,568	1 4 7	2,612	2,638	1 7 10	2,294	2,736	1 12 7		
Donagh, ...	608	0 16 0	709	617	0 18 2	759	645	0 18 1		
Donagh, ...	778	1 2 11	747	891	1 3 10	617	884	1 4 6		
Totals, ...	17,734	11 2 10	15,766	16,991	1 6 3	14,116	20,289	1 8 8		
UNION OF BALLYSHANNON.										
Chif, ...	771	1 2 4	715	860	1 4 1	609	860	1 8 2	2 2	3 9
Totals, ...	771	11 2 4	715	860	1 4 1	609	860	1 8 2		
Totals in respect of the Congested Districts in Co. Donegal.										
	120,666	10 18 7	110,216	96,171	0 17 11	104,713	104,794	0 19 4		

* Included by Order of the Lord Lieutenant.

† Average.

COUNTY LITTIM.

Union and Electoral Division.	Population, 1881.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1881.	Population, 1891.	Valuation, 1891.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1891.	Population, 1901.	Valuation, 1901.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1901.	Poor Rates for year ended 31st March, 1901.	
									On Agricultural Land.	On Other Rateable Lands.
		£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.	In the £ s. d.	In the £ s. d.
UNION OF RALLYSHANNON.										
Aghalane, ...	661	1 0 2	897	578	1 0 1	327	579	1 15 4	1 10	8 8
Aghalane, ...	1,259	1 4 5	944	1,280	1 7 1	454	1,283	1 11 5		
Aghalane, ...	1,258	1 1 1	1,000	1,206	1 0 4	553	1,371	1 12 10		
Aghalane, ...	745	1 8 7	694	1,066	1 10 9	887	1,049	1 10 9		
Tullaghan, ...	1,620	1 1 11	1,478	2,010	1 7 2	1,559	2,000	1 10 9		
Totals, ...	5,254	1 1 3	4,572	6,900	1 8 5	3,084	6,602	1 12 7		
UNION OF CARRICK-ON-SHANNON.										
Aghalane, ...	420	1 2 9	387	420	1 5 0	512	444	1 11 0	2 0	8 6
Barnacranagh, ...	801	1 5 5	759	1,117	1 9 5	719	1,118	1 11 1		
Drumilly East, ...	594	0 15 0	456	435	0 14 4	426	458	1 0 6		
Drumilly West, ...	824	1 2 7	719	907	1 2 3	579	918	1 12 1		
Gortagallan, ...	1,220	1 1 0	1,184	1,761	1 10 1	1,075	1,762	1 13 2		
Kilbriken, ...	888	1 1 0	721	922	1 0 5	668	950	1 9 9		
Mohr, ...	1,129	1 2 0	965	1,440	1 9 10	840	1,447	1 14 5		
Tully, ...	1,304	1 0 0	1,120	1,361	1 4 6	966	1,304	1 8 10		
Totals, ...	7,611	1 2 4	6,881	8,484	1 6 9	5,649	8,338	1 10 2		
UNION OF MOHILL.										
Aghalane, ...	1,120	1 5 4	909	1,439	1 11 1	877	1,457	1 12 9	2 8	4 4
Brip, ...	1,172	1 8 9	1,326	1,826	1 7 11	1,181	1,875	1 11 5		
Brumacran, ...	1,494	1 2 10	1,148	1,691	1 8 9	990	1,693	1 12 5		
Cashel, ...	609	1 3 5	573	778	1 7 2	514	781	1 10 4		
Castle, ...	881	1 4 10	747	1,171	1 11 4	683	1,172	1 10 5		
Castle, ...	1,220	1 1 3	1,090	1,220	1 4 5	947	1,220	1 7 9		
Cassia, ...	1,220	1 4 1	1,229	1,510	1 7 6	1,247	1,599	1 10 9		
Cassia, ...	969	1 6 9	850	1,391	1 8 8	717	1,196	1 18 5		
Cassia, ...	1,106	1 4 11	894	1,381	1 9 11	845	1,380	1 12 8		
Cassia, ...	880	1 9 4	871	1,445	1 11 2	730	1,455	1 18 9		
Totals, ...	11,379	1 1 0	9,807	14,067	1 8 8	8,725	14,118	1 12 4		
UNION OF MAHONSHANNON.										
Arigna, ...	420	0 13 8	409	440	0 19 2	423	445	1 1 0	2 4	4 2
Clonsilla, ...	1,124	0 16 9	916	920	1 0 1	756	1,036	1 8 0		
Clonsilla, ...	1,317	0 19 2	1,153	1,104	1 0 9	1,050	1,171	1 5 5		
Glennagh, ...	605	0 19 10	813	910	1 3 6	664	916	1 7 7		
Glennagh, ...	870	1 4 7	727	1,075	1 9 7	581	1,084	1 17 2		
Glennagh, ...	920	1 5 3	836	1,162	1 7 10	615	1,170	1 14 8		
Glennagh, ...	1,400	1 2 8	1,386	2,064	1 5 11	1,405	2,065	1 9 8		
Kilbriken, ...	2,242	1 1 7	1,837	2,415	1 4 11	1,840	2,411	1 9 6		
Malinagh, ...	1,067	1 1 4	870	1,120	1 5 11	722	1,120	1 11 8		
Totals, ...	10,781	1 1 0	9,385	11,315	1 4 2	7,956	11,422	1 8 7		
UNION OF RAHNAVOT.										
Clonsilla, ...	1,465	1 7 3	1,360	1,987	1 9 8	1,218	2,013	1 18 0	2 4	8
Drumilly North, ...	763	0 12 10	597	738	1 1 5	620	765	1 4 3		
Drumilly South, ...	730	1 9 5	645	863	1 9 10	597	961	1 12 9		
Glennagh, ...	1,174	1 5 1	1,042	1,473	1 8 5	935	1,473	1 10 7		
Glennagh, ...	819	0 19 5	628	882	1 1 3	738	880	1 4 6		
Glennagh, ...	641	0 15 9	616	694	0 16 4	540	691	0 17 8		
Totals, ...	5,082	1 1 8	4,194	5,585	1 5 4	4,703	6,005	1 8 1		
Total in respect of the Corporation Districts in Co. Leitrim.	40,228	1 1 2	35,210	46,963	1 6 7	30,965	47,215	1 10 8		

* Included by Order of the Lord Lieutenant.

† Average.

COUNTY SLIGO.

Union and Electoral Division.	Population, 1881.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1881.			Population, 1891.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1891.			Population, 1901.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1901.			Poor Rates for year ended 31st March, 1901.		
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	On Agricultural Land.	On Other Hereditaments.	
UNION OF SLIGO.															
Chifney North, ...	3,829	1	0	4	1,723	2,002	1	8	2	1,537	2,050	1	6	8	} 2 4 4 4
Chifney South, ...	1,428	1	8	5	1,217	1,705	1	5	11	1,119	1,700	1	10	8	
Annaduff North,* ...	3,125	1	4	11	1,865	2,621	1	20	0	1,856	2,678	1	15	9	
Annaduff West, ...	2,433	1	0	10	1,530	2,523	1	4	4	1,637	2,221	1	6	3	
Totals, ...	7,815	11	2	4	4,725	8,857	1	5	4	5,899	8,605	1	9	2	
UNION OF DROMORE WEST.															
Dromore, ...	1,120	1	1	11	825	1,336	1	4	8	814	1,254	1	10	8	} 2 0 2 0
Castlemore East,* ...	915	1	6	20	740	1,174	1	10	11	657	1,177	1	18	8	
Malloghmore,* ...	282	1	7	4	294	317	1	19	9	186	317	1	14	1	
Rathmore, ...	1,701	1	0	0	1,499	1,972	1	5	1	1,602	1,880	1	8	10	
Totals, ...	3,017	11	4	3	2,358	4,801	1	7	2	2,659	4,528	1	11	5	
UNION OF TOWNSHIRE.															
Achnary East, ...	1,925	0	17	8	1,669	1,733	1	9	6	1,557	1,835	1	8	6	} 2 0 3 5
Achnary West, ...	3,164	0	15	0	2,750	2,845	0	17	0	2,539	2,856	0	18	7	
Achnary, ...	1,240	1	1	5	1,123	1,319	1	3	11	940	1,542	1	8	4	
Banahally, ...	2,621	1	4	1	2,584	3,155	1	6	10	2,622	3,172	1	11	4	
Brennaborough,* ...	868	1	9	8	762	1,582	1	13	7	627	1,260	2	9	11	
Chesham,* ...	781	1	10	5	685	1,133	1	14	9	574	1,197	1	15	8	
Glenties, ...	964	1	6	8	847	1,226	1	8	11	695	1,257	1	15	4	
Killybegs, ...	1,119	1	8	20	935	1,403	1	8	2	867	1,423	1	11	5	
Townshill, ...	2,742	1	5	1	2,281	4,350	1	6	10	2,714	4,566	1	13	3	
Totals, ...	16,447	11	8	5	14,434	17,995	1	4	11	12,568	18,285	1	9	2	
UNION OF BOYLE.															
Castles, ...	2,529	0	19	8	2,135	2,350	1	2	0	1,815	2,443	1	6	10	} 2 0 3 5
Castles, ...	2,707	1	8	10	1,920	2,403	1	8	0	1,630	2,623	1	14	4	
Castles, ...	1,513	0	17	2	1,381	1,303	0	19	2	1,124	1,541	1	3	2	
Totals, ...	4,749	11	0	2	5,436	6,056	1	3	3	4,601	6,611	1	8	8	
Total in respect of the Congested Districts in Co. Sligo	34,884	11	2	4	30,992	37,590	1	5	0	25,041	38,219	1	9	4	

COUNTY MAYO.

UNION OF KILLALA.														
Belinagore, ...	700	0	18	1	609	564	0	18	5	549	596	1	0	10
Belinagore North,* ...	1,864	1	8	11	1,725	2,409	1	10	2	1,582	2,612	1	13	0
Totals, ...	2,564	11	8	6	2,334	2,973	1	7	1	2,131	3,208	1	13	10
UNION OF BELMULLETT.														
Benger, ...	508	0	16	8	491	435	0	17	8	530	449	0	15	9
Benger, ...	450	0	14	3	395	319	0	16	0	391	320	0	16	3
Belmullet, ...	3,691	0	12	5	2,294	1,832	0	18	11	2,238	1,832	0	18	4
Belmullet North, ...	1,823	0	7	4	1,589	1,242	1	3	9	1,250	1,639	1	4	5
Belmullet South, ...	1,894	0	17	6	1,656	1,741	1	1	0	1,568	1,744	1	2	2
Belmullet, ...	595	0	15	0	591	595	0	14	11	420	592	0	14	6
Glenties, ...	1,195	0	10	7	968	632	0	13	1	890	638	0	14	0
Glenties, ...	531	1	7	8	522	481	1	8	1	500	537	1	6	0
Glenties, ...	588	0	18	0	580	530	0	17	10	528	480	0	17	10
Glenties, ...	667	0	12	1	636	590	0	19	7	625	590	0	12	4
Glenties, ...	1,717	0	10	0	1,738	861	0	9	11	1,614	844	0	9	2
Glenties, ...	755	0	10	6	754	402	0	11	4	676	385	0	11	8
Glenties, ...	753	0	8	0	704	320	0	8	8	449	321	0	8	10
Glenties, ...	2,025	0	7	11	1,948	939	0	8	2	1,841	937	0	8	9
Glenties, ...	318	1	0	8	293	225	0	19	7	221	226	1	0	5
Totals, ...	16,401	10	14	6	14,233	14,814	0	15	2	12,845	16,628	0	15	4

* Included by Order of the Lord Lieutenant.

† Average.

* The rate struck in Co. Mayo in 1901 was practically for two years, as no rate having been levied in the previous year.

COUNTY MAYO—continued.

Union and Electoral Divisions.	Population, 1881.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1881.	Population, 1891.	Valuation, 1891.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1891.	Population, 1901.	Valuation, 1901.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1901.	Poor Rates for year ended 31st March, 1901.		
									On Agricultural Land.	On Other Rateable Hereditaments.	
											In the £. s. d.	In the £. s. d.
UNION OF BALLINA.											
Askeagh South Urban, ...	1,064	1 4 9	1,294	3,832	1 8 6	1,178	1,370	1 3 3	4 8	7 2	
Ardnaree South Rural, ...	884	1 5 1	1,434	2,025	1 5 7	1,244	2,024	1 10 1			
Attymore East, ...	1,286	0 15 8	1,289	865	0 15 5	1,263	885	0 14 7			
Attymore West, ...	884	1 5 1	738	1,025	1 5 7	708	960	1 7 0			
Bannvacla, ...	846	0 18 5	227	888	1 1 5	280	318	1 2 8			
Deaf, ...	1,477	1 5 4	1,361	1,855	1 9 7	1,545	1,851	1 13 7			
Dowry, ...	586	0 17 8	783	740	0 18 9	687	739	1 1 6			
Kilgarra, ...	2,830	0 14 8	2,153	1,600	0 14 11	1,849	1,683	0 16 2			
Leitishale, ...	743	0 15 10	686	534	0 16 2	585	523	0 18 1			
Salmonstown, ...	1,760	0 14 2	1,753	1,590	0 18 2	1,531	1,586	1 0 8			
Trillick, ...	1,584	0 17 2	1,285	1,194	0 19 0	1,180	1,135	0 19 2			
Totals, ...	14,156	10 18 6	12,917	13,536	1 0 11	12,711	12,074	1 8 1			
UNION OF WESTPORT.											
Askeagh, ...	1,684	0 5 4	1,417	433	0 4 1	1,495	422	0 5 9	4 2	7 4	
Askeagh South, ...	466	1 4 9	474	315	1 5 11	430	315	1 8 7			
Askeagh, ...	1,402	0 13 8	1,396	961	0 14 10	1,146	933	0 16 4			
Ballyvaughan North, ...	1,073	1 0 2	1,191	1,079	0 18 1	1,118	934	0 18 10			
Ballyvaughan South, ...	918	0 18 9	847	850	1 0 4	807	851	1 1 1			
Clare Island, ...	737	0 18 4	628	672	0 19 7	625	665	1 1 8			
Clogher, ...	1,447	1 4 5	1,378	1,346	1 8 11	1,194	1,344	1 10 10			
Cornamona, ...	1,237	0 6 6	1,402	557	0 6 11	689	686	0 8 6			
Crough Patrick, ...	1,019	1 4 5	809	1,244	1 10 9	1,143	1,197	1 14 8			
Dowry, ...	1,158	0 8 1	1,094	713	0 8 5	744	794	0 8 0			
Drumcra, ...	582	0 18 10	555	505	0 17 8	563	504	0 18 2			
Edingburgh, ...	1,105	0 14 7	1,185	807	0 14 8	981	847	0 16 8			
Glenties, ...	1,047	0 15 6	995	844	0 16 11	881	847	0 19 2			
Inchmaddy, ...	2,397	1 1 0	1,931	1,537	1 4 1	1,479	2,216	1 7 11			
Kilgobbin, ...	4-9	0 13 8	1,154	764	0 13 1	679	325	0 13 8			
Kilgobbin, ...	1,191	0 16 6	1,154	760	0 16 6	1,054	968	0 19 1			
Kilgobbin, ...	1,238	1 0 4	1,116	1,049	1 2 5	1,033	1,240	1 4 2			
Kilgobbin, ...	1,144	0 14 5	1,031	1,531	0 18 7	1,543	1,236	0 19 9			
Kilgobbin, ...	2,194	1 4 0	1,839	2,639	1 9 2	2,505	2,107	1 16 8			
Kilgobbin East, ...	880	0 15 1	1,804	1,845	0 17 4	1,080	1,707	1 1 3			
Kilgobbin West, ...	880	1 0 3	876	877	1 0 0	886	877	1 0 11			
Kilgobbinburgh, ...	1,247	0 8 9	1,850	889	0 9 5	1,823	815	0 8 11			
Kilgobbin, ...	623	1 2 4	895	684	1 6 4	699	602	1 8 5			
Totals, ...	20,895	10 16 11	27,124	24,156	0 17 9	25,327	24,235	0 19 1			
UNION OF SWINFORD.											
Aghavea, ...	1,960	0 17 0	1,761	1,650	0 18 30	1,646	1,671	1 0 3	4 6	7 10	
Brucklough, ...	2,374	0 10 0	2,355	1,665	0 11 8	2,692	1,644	0 12 4			
Callow, ...	2,169	0 17 7	1,897	1,808	1 0 1	1,773	1,640	1 1 6			
Clonsilla, ...	2,865	0 9 4	2,378	1,354	0 19 6	2,046	1,205	0 12 6			
Clonsilla, ...	1,507	0 14 5	1,367	1,265	0 15 5	1,391	1,071	0 17 10			
Clonsilla, ...	1,899	0 19 8	1,472	1,330	1 5 0	1,335	1,694	0 16 0			
Clonsilla, ...	2,040	0 12 5	2,330	1,582	0 18 7	1,899	1,397	0 14 9			
Clonsilla, ...	3,411	0 18 9	3,110	2,212	0 14 2	2,862	2,574	0 13 4			
Clonsilla, ...	2,643	0 11 3	2,448	2,087	0 12 1	2,148	1,893	0 16 8			
Clonsilla, ...	2,645	0 15 8	2,448	1,785	0 15 2	2,148	1,888	0 15 4			
Clonsilla, ...	2,045	0 19 6	2,555	1,882	0 12 11	2,387	1,073	0 16 6			
Clonsilla, ...	2,794	0 12 0	2,538	1,653	0 13 11	2,387	1,073	0 16 6			
Clonsilla, ...	3,472	1 1 1	2,556	2,566	1 4 7	1,929	2,607	1 7 6			
Clonsilla, ...	3,337	0 11 9	3,152	2,074	0 12 6	2,707	2,065	0 14 11			
Clonsilla, ...	3,702	0 17 5	4,361	4,540	1 0 0	4,058	4,795	1 5 8			
Clonsilla, ...	1,745	1 0 1	1,668	1,548	1 0 3	1,463	1,325	1 8 4			
Clonsilla, ...	2,017	1 1 5	2,737	2,830	1 4 5	2,494	3,359	1 6 9			
Clonsilla, ...	1,745	1 0 1	1,668	1,743	1 1 6	1,432	1,755	1 4 0			
Clonsilla, ...	2,635	0 9 8	2,547	2,569	0 19 1	2,569	1,269	0 11 1			
Totals, ...	51,240	10 14 6	46,343	57,871	0 18 1	49,855	56,090	0 17 11			

* Included by Order of the Lord Lieutenant.

† Average.

COUNTY MAYO—continued.

Union and Electoral Division.	Population, 1881.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1881.	Population, 1891.	Valuation, 1891.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1891.	Population, 1901.	Valuation, 1901.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1901.	Poor Rates for year ended 31st March, 1901.	
									On Agricultural Lands.	On Other Hereditaments.
UNION OF CASTLEREAR.		£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.	In the £ s. d.	In the £ s. d.
Aldingdale, ...	2,523	0 18 10	1,983	1,971	0 19 9	1,722	1,861	1 2 11	4 4	6 8
Ballymaguigan, ...	1,177	1 0 10	1,062	1,267	1 2 8	993	1,227	1 4 8		
Bellinny, ...	2,064	1 2 10	2,512	3,261	1 5 11	2,415	3,431	1 8 4		
Bunna, ...	1,330	0 85 8	1,264	1,013	0 16 4	1,170	1,044	0 17 10		
Clontarf, ...	1,397	1 0 6	1,455	1,625	1 2 4	1,290	1,635	1 5 7		
Crugachy, ...	674	1 0 8	588	680	1 0 10	538	684	1 2 10		
Furton, ...	1,711	0 11 2	1,784	1,679	0 11 7	1,703	1,553	0 11 11		
Townshill, ...	1,430	1 0 6	1,338	1,455	1 2 11	1,169	1,459	1 4 8		
Totals, ...	15,198	10 18 7	12,129	12,898	1 0 8	11,934	12,461	1 2 7		
UNION OF CLASHMORE.										
Ballykeale, ...	2,564	1 1 8	3,397	3,666	1 2 11	3,056	4,002	1 6 2	4 1	6 3
Beltin, ...	2,464	1 2 2	3,178	3,729	1 4 8	3,176	5,743	1 7 9		
Clontarf, ...	2,557	1 0 18	2,518	3,825	1 4 0	2,511	4,070	1 29 8		
Clontarf, ...	569	1 2 2	558	1,888	1 5 8	710	1,102	1 11 0		
Coona, ...	1,261	1 0 0	1,397	1,531	1 2 6	1,351	1,267	1 5 6		
Clontarf, ...	2,184	1 4 4	1,297	2,674	1 9 1	1,526	2,664	1 13 4		
Clontarf, ...	2,290	1 0 10	1,985	2,985	1 10 10	1,965	3,006	1 12 2		
Knock North, ...	1,968	0 14 8	1,774	1,436	0 16 2	1,648	1,445	0 17 7		
Knock South, ...	1,929	0 18 3	1,818	1,701	0 19 3	1,938	1,779	1 1 0		
Loughboy, ...	1,640	0 15 1	1,480	1,470	0 18 0	1,361	1,096	0 17 4		
Murphy, ...	1,572	1 9 9	1,265	2,645	1 12 4	1,169	2,044	1 14 3		
Totals, ...	22,066	11 1 4	20,568	28,520	1 3 16	18,726	35,647	1 7 2		
UNION OF BALLYKEALE.										
Ballykeale, ...	1,006	0 8 8	1,202	463	0 7 4	1,059	443	0 8 5	5 10	6 0
Ballykeale, ...	616	0 15 9	809	647	0 14 11	639	679	0 15 10		
Clontarf, ...	896	0 17 11	865	802	0 18 8	770	811	1 1 1		
Clontarf, ...	1,125	0 9 2	1,193	514	0 8 7	1,169	526	0 9 5		
Portlough, ...	1,193	1 6 3	1,222	1,770	1 9 6	1,180	1,775	1 10 1		
Totals, ...	5,836	10 15 6	5,876	6 196	0 16 7	4,967	4,225	0 17 0		
Total in respect of Congested Estates, County Mayo.	155,861	16 17 9	141,127	136,169	0 18 3	152,167	151,548	1 0 2		

COUNTY ROSCOMMON.

UNION OF CAIRN-OR-SHANESON.										
Temora North, ...	1,163	1 0 4	928	1,122	1 4 9	744	1,186	1 12 1	2 0	8 8
Temora South, ...	1,125	1 6 4	984	1,477	1 8 10	762	1,494	1 19 0		
Totals, ...	2,288	1 8 8	1,912	2,609	1 3 5	1,506	2,680	1 15 7		
UNION OF BOTTLE.										
Altavilla, ...	581	0 17 8	440	507	1 0 9	448	750	1 15 7	2 2	3 4
Ballymore, ...	1,064	0 18 7	833	781	0 17 2	672	710	0 18 10		
Clontarf, ...	1,209	1 2 4	1,090	1,122	1 7 11	908	1,338	1 15 7		
Clontarf, ...	628	1 8 2	673	852	1 8 1	860	968	1 15 0		
Lough Allen, ...	582	0 18 1	678	870	0 19 10	769	867	1 2 4		
Totals, ...	4,739	10 18 11	3,921	4,539	1 0 0	3,847	4,796	1 8 7		

* Included by Order of the Lord Lieutenant.

† Average.

COUNTY ROSSCOMMON—continued.

Union and Electoral Division.	Population, 1881.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1881.			Population, 1891.	Valuation, 1891.			Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1891.	Population, 1901.	Valuation, 1901.			Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1901.	Rate Rates for year ended 31st March, 1901.	
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.		On Agricultural Land.	On Other Improvements.
UNION OF CASTLEREAGH.																
Armagh North, ...	3,204	0	19	2	3,900	3,209	1	2	0	3,664	3,379	1	5	4	2	6
Armagh South, ...	3,518	0	15	9	2,046	1,440	0	15	9	1,869	1,641	0	15	0		
Ballymacdonagh, ...	5,201	0	17	4	4,516	4,522	0	19	2	4,567	5,137	1	8	5		
Ballymacnagh, ...	2,645	0	18	0	3,146	3,274	1	0	10	3,877	4,455	1	4	0		
Ballymacnagh, ...	1,981	1	1	8	1,721	2,147	1	5	0	1,859	2,161	1	7	19		
Clontarf, ...	1,675	0	19	10	1,679	1,629	0	19	9	1,446	1,692	1	8	4		
Clontarf, ...	2,483	0	19	4	1,806	2,489	1	5	8	1,405	2,296	1	8	8		
Clontarf, ...	1,936	0	18	1	1,712	1,751	1	8	5	1,479	1,825	1	2	5		
Edenstown, ...	2,354	1	1	4	2,094	2,380	1	5	0	1,688	2,588	1	10	8		
Fairyhouse, ...	2,483	1	0	4	3,042	1,887	1	5	3	2,841	3,559	1	5	0		
Kilbride, ...	3,470	1	9	1	3,235	3,935	1	19	5	1,981	3,716	1	17	6		
Totals, ...	30,286	9	19	10	27,975	33,376	1	2	5	24,596	31,526	1	5	7		
UNION OF STOKES TOWN.																
Brook, ...	1,387	0	17	4	1,167	1,568	1	0	7	966	1,215	1	4	7	2	4
Totals, ...	1,387	0	17	4	1,167	1,568	1	0	7	966	1,215	1	4	7		
UNION OF BALLINASCLOE.																
Moore, ...	297	1	7	1	655	658	1	9	8	655	561	1	9	0	1	8
Totals, ...	297	1	7	1	655	658	1	9	8	655	561	1	9	0		
Total in respect of the Computed District in Co. Roscommon.																
	40,294	41	1	5	34,725	39,758	1	2	10	31,665	41,175	1	4	5		

COUNTY GALWAY.

UNION OF CLIFDEN.																
Ballynabuff,* ...	860	1	8	4	708	1,222	1	11	3	750	1,296	1	19	8	2	9
Enniscorthy, ...	1,683	0	18	3	1,374	1,115	0	16	2	1,171	1,324	0	19	2		
Clifden, ...	684	1	2	10	515	748	1	4	5	658	768	1	7	0		
Clifden, ...	3,611	0	16	2	2,905	2,353	1	0	4	2,615	3,015	1	8	8		
Clifden, ...	509	1	0	7	465	470	1	3	1	454	482	1	10	0		
Clifden, ...	337	1	4	8	283	386	1	8	9	336	399	1	11	9		
Clifden, ...	720	0	17	11	504	644	1	5	8	505	640	1	5	7		
Clifden, ...	1,028	0	12	10	839	681	0	16	3	786	643	0	18	8		
Clifden, ...	527	0	7	4	344	110	0	6	9	337	123	0	7	8		
Clifden, ...	1,166	0	9	10	937	872	0	11	6	891	931	0	15	0		
Clifden, ...	2,044	0	9	8	2,361	1,295	0	10	6	1,693	1,964	0	12	4		
Clifden, ...	1,044	0	17	0	1,263	887	0	14	8	974	1,131	1	0	5		
Clifden, ...	977	0	7	9	837	873	0	9	0	826	1,034	0	18	11		
Clifden, ...	3,654	0	15	0	2,940	1,998	0	17	6	2,095	1,261	0	17	8		
Clifden, ...	1,879	0	10	10	1,203	1,104	0	16	1	1,205	1,261	0	18	8		
Clifden, ...	2,164	0	8	6	1,646	916	0	13	6	1,266	918	0	18	4		
Clifden, ...	1,749	0	7	8	1,427	668	0	9	2	1,226	658	0	10	4		
Totals, ...	25,850	0	15	2	19,980	16,978	0	16	3	16,186	17,166	0	18	9		

* Included by Order of the Lord Lieutenant.
† Average.

COUNTY GALWAY—continued.

Union and Electoral Division.	Population, 1881.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1881.			Population, 1891.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1891.			Population, 1901.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1901.			Poor Rates for year ended 31st March, 1902.					
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	On Arrears of Land.	On Other Assessments.				
UNION OF DOUGHERDA.																		
Carras, ...	518	0	8	5	550	2	7	30	590	2	5	0	2	5				
Clonsilla, ...	2,081	1	8	5	3,411	2	6	4	3,659	2	10	9						
Coop, ...	1,912	0	15	1	1,749	1	25	4	1,671	1	20	1						
Cransha, ...	5,475	0	7	3	5,283	0	7	11	5,588	0	8	3						
Corra, ...	510	0	17	10	525	0	17	5	565	0	18	7						
Corra, ...	2,713	0	5	7	2,500	0	7	2	2,349	0	5	3						
Corra, ...	538	0	11	1	560	0	8	7	516	0	10	0						
Corra, ...	222	1	0	1	208	1	1	1	225	1	8	4						
Corra, ...	544	1	5	4	581	1	3	8	518	1	15	7						
Corra, ...	1,643	0	5	7	1,408	0	4	6	1,272	0	7	9						
Corra, ...	2,537	0	10	0	2,579	1	0	0	2,670	1	5	9						
Corra, ...	334	1	6	3	337	1	6	9	338	1	6	9						
Corra, ...	1,772	0	9	8	1,480	0	11	2	1,476	0	10	0						
Corra, ...	2,641	1	2	4	1,700	1	5	0	1,580	1	10	3						
Total, ...	20,705	10	15	4	18,973	0	15	8	17,702	0	17	7						
UNION OF GALWAY.																		
Annaghdown, ...	1,880	1	0	5	1,267	1	3	7	1,243	1	5	11	2	5				
Annaghdown, ...	750	1	3	0	736	0	3	9	728	0	4	0						
Annaghdown, ...	3,105	0	9	11	2,907	0	10	10	2,943	0	11	1						
Annaghdown, ...	1,079	0	9	3	1,444	0	9	10	1,780	0	10	11						
Annaghdown, ...	950	0	14	2	983	0	15	8	977	0	13	9						
Annaghdown, ...	1,268	1	5	4	1,134	1	4	0	1,055	1	11	8						
Annaghdown, ...	775	1	4	3	673	1	7	11	663	1	11	0						
Annaghdown, ...	1,365	0	10	1	1,181	0	11	0	1,145	0	12	1						
Annaghdown, ...	2,116	0	17	7	1,867	0	18	4	1,848	0	18	4						
Annaghdown, ...	1,430	0	11	7	1,324	0	12	1	1,144	0	15	7						
Total, ...	14,809	10	18	5	13,280	0	16	1	12,423	0	17	5						
UNION OF GLENAMADDY.																		
Ballinacorney, ...	1,602	1	6	5	880	1	9	7	841	1	11	7	2	5				
Ballinacorney, ...	888	0	18	2	784	0	18	3	675	0	18	10						
Ballinacorney, ...	2,175	0	10	2	1,677	0	11	0	1,738	0	11	1						
Ballinacorney, ...	1,316	0	10	3	1,234	0	9	6	1,205	0	10	6						
Ballinacorney, ...	1,400	1	8	8	1,335	1	9	4	1,302	1	10	1						
Ballinacorney, ...	1,602	0	19	4	1,555	1	0	1	1,517	1	11	1						
Ballinacorney, ...	1,265	1	8	4	1,133	1	3	4	1,103	1	7	9						
Total, ...	9,268	11	1	7	8,261	1	8	5	8,208	1	10	3						
UNION OF TUAM.																		
Adelphi, ...	1,543	1	1	5	1,668	2	0	5	1,479	2	0	3			2	4		
Adelphi, ...	1,334	1	3	7	1,320	1	7	7	1,391	1	5	5						
Adelphi, ...	3,156	1	3	10	2,155	1	7	9	2,720	1	10	9						
Adelphi, ...	872	1	0	1	854	1	0	9	704	1	15	7						
Total, ...	7,805	11	3	5	7,015	1	6	5	7,294	1	10	3						
UNION OF MOUNTBELLEVUE.																		
Clonsilla, ...	1,777	0	19	4	1,588	1	0	10	1,385	1	4	0	2	5				
Total, ...	1,777	0	19	4	1,588	1	0	10	1,385	1	4	0						
UNION OF LOUGHREA.																		
Donnybrook, ...	501	0	18	0	332	0	14	5	473	0	16	4					2	4
Donnybrook, ...	404	0	14	7	274	0	15	9	375	0	15	13						
Donnybrook, ...	1,147	0	16	4	1,055	0	17	4	879	0	15	8						
Total, ...	3,148	10	14	7	1,874	1	16	3	1,718	1	15	8						

* Included by Order of the Lord Lieutenant.

† Average.

COUNTY GALWAY—continued.

Union and Electoral Division.	Population, 1881.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1881.	Population, 1891.	Valuation, 1891.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1891.	Population, 1901.	Valuation, 1901.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1901.	Poor Rates for year ended 31st March, 1901.	
									On Agricultural Land.	On Other Rateable Lands.
UNION OF PORTUNNA.		£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.	In the £. s. d.	In the £. s. d.
Cora, ...	547	0 17 7	473	480	1 0 3	637	661	1 2 0	2 4	5 2
Totals, ...	547	0 17 7	473	480	1 0 3	637	661	1 2 0		
Total in respect of the Corporate Districts in Co. Galway.	81,085	0 17 11	72,305	65,004	0 18 1	96,491	87,895	1 0 4		

COUNTY CLARE.

UNION OF SCARLETT.										
Mountbannon, ...	443	1 7 7	301	613	1 11 4	355	624	1 15 1	2 0	4 0
Totals, ...	443	1 7 7	301	613	1 11 4	355	624	1 15 1		
Total in respect of the Corporate Districts in Co. Clare.	443	1 7 7	301	613	1 11 4	355	624	1 15 1		

COUNTY KERRY.

UNION OF LESTOWEL.										
Askeagh, ...	1,387	0 18 4	1,333	1,365	0 19 0	1,515	1,373	1 0 11	4 2	4 6
Ballygowry, ...	925	1 6 3	735	1,044	1 9 8	637	1,091	1 15 4		
Concebray, ...	936	1 5 3	850	1,297	1 8 0	725	1,360	1 11 11		
Dough, ...	1,175	1 0 4	913	1,395	1 5 2	833	1,200	1 8 10		
Gallane, ...	886	1 4 10	724	1,301	1 9 2	682	1,307	1 12 5		
Arlybegbeg, ...	1,504	1 4 2	1,513	2,397	1 8 5	1,573	2,384	1 35 2		
Kilbarnon, ...	1,163	1 6 0	1,094	1,569	1 9 6	945	1,534	1 12 7		
Kilbarnon, ...	597	0 18 3	529	484	0 18 7	541	486	0 17 11		
Kilbarnon, ...	868	1 6 8	778	1,033	1 7 11	721	1,118	1 12 0		
Kilbarnon (Glen), ...	1,110	1 3 10	910	1,330	1 7 5	830	1,305	1 15 2		
Totals, ...	10,784	1 1 2	9,300	12,037	1 6 4	8,499	15,018	1 9 8		
UNION OF TRALEE.										
Ballyhynes, ...	1,512	1 2 2	1,290	1,672	1 5 9	1,081	1,635	1 31 4	3 4	5 5
Ballyhynes, ...	658	1 4 2	580	637	1 8 2	516	900	1 31 6		
Berna, ...	1,594	1 9 7	1,309	1,644	1 3 11	1,313	1,688	1 5 8		
Berna, ...	661	1 3 5	622	704	1 7 0	486	706	1 9 6		
Berna, ...	832	1 4 2	761	996	1 4 1	750	1,001	1 6 8		
Berna, ...	1,162	0 18 6	1,011	1,338	0 15 5	936	767	0 15 4		
Berna, ...	738	0 18 11	620	629	1 6 11	584	715	2 4 5		
Berna, ...	1,297	0 19 8	1,013	1,188	0 19 7	1,144	1,187	1 0 3		
Berna, ...	733	1 4 6	568	966	1 32 8	510	969	2 17 7		
Berna, ...	1,856	0 18 8	1,774	1,738	0 19 6	1,613	1,735	1 1 6		
Berna, ...	1,004	1 1 9	684	1,084	1 1 9	808	1,805	1 7 6		
Berna, ...	474	1 3 10	466	543	1 3 5	428	548	1 6 0		
Totals, ...	12,896	1 1 3	11,318	12,847	1 2 7	10,194	12,909	1 5 5		

* Included by Order of the Land Commission
† Average.

COUNTY KERRY—continued.

Union and Electoral Division.	Population, 1880.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1880.			Population, 1891.	Valuation, 1891.			Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1891.	Population, 1901.	Valuation, 1901.			Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1901.	Poor Rates for year ended 31st March, 1901.	
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.		On Agricultural Land.	On Other Rateable Lands.
UNION OF DINGLE.																
Ballinacorney, ...	1,662	1	4	6	963	1,230	1	7	0	854	1,130	1	11	1	3	4
Ballinacorney, ...	797	1	3	3	723	805	1	6	9	666	978	1	9	4		
Bandon, ...	566	0	16	3	558	404	0	14	6	428	415	0	23	6		
Castlegregory, ...	1,329	0	16	6	1,869	1,653	0	18	6	1,651	1,698	1	9	6		
Claghane, ...	808	0	16	16	777	585	0	17	7	723	693	0	23	4		
Dingle, ...	910	0	17	4	923	738	0	17	3	857	887	0	18	9		
Dingle, ...	4,331	1	5	3	4,148	5,743	1	7	8	4,099	5,647	1	9	4		
Duncooly, ...	650	0	16	3	635	524	0	16	10	456	439	0	27	2		
Glenties, ...	828	1	7	11	767	1,199	1	11	2	757	1,211	1	10	4		
Kesh, ...	1,205	0	15	4	1,134	924	0	16	4	1,200	1,04	0	15	6		
Killeshin, ...	1,049	0	18	6	1,054	945	0	17	11	1,124	929	0	17	0		
Kilteas, ...	1,035	1	3	3	1,096	1,212	1	4	1	877	1,283	1	6	1		
Kilteas, ...	702	0	17	1	644	690	0	19	7	630	615	1	2	3		
Marble, ...	644	1	2	2	536	715	1	5	8	554	717	1	5	10		
Ventry, ...	1,136	1	3	7	1,358	1,408	1	2	4	1,176	1,616	1	4	3		
Totals, ...	17,551	11	0	4	16,910	14,099	1	2	6	16,327	19,699	1	3	10		
UNION OF KILLARNEY.																
Carrig, ...	1,734	0	10	7	1,692	910	0	10	2	1,656	1,330	0	17	2	5	4
Clybegh, ...	491	1	3	11	452	468	1	5	2	499	432	1	11	7		
Cobler, ...	734	1	3	11	610	878	1	5	2	581	881	1	10	8		
Coom, ...	3,688	1	3	4	3,596	3,279	1	3	8	3,273	3,367	1	6	4		
Cumshingaun, ...	293	1	1	0	629	933	1	5	4	758	980	1	5	6		
Dromore, ...	1,331	1	4	6	969	1,284	1	7	8	999	1,217	1	4	5		
Killbeg, ...	4,229	0	16	3	4,487	3,618	0	16	1	3,394	4,096	1	2	6		
Totals, ...	12,433	11	0	4	12,087	11,735	1	0	3	10,843	13,935	1	3	11		
UNION OF CAHOREEKEN.																
Bahaghy, ...	857	0	19	1	745	817	1	1	11	595	834	1	3	7	4	10
Ballydoole, ...	1,839	0	22	9	1,638	1,819	0	14	4	1,550	1,624	0	18	4		
Ballyhenck, ...	391	1	6	7	373	402	1	1	7	319	453	1	2	2		
Caher, ...	3,616	0	17	7	3,388	3,181	0	16	9	3,444	3,799	1	2	5		
Cahoreeke, ...	1,346	0	22	7	1,041	846	0	16	3	931	869	0	17	10		
Cannig, ...	829	0	14	0	625	580	0	16	9	443	548	0	18	5		
Cahoreeke, ...	1,541	1	4	6	1,417	1,909	1	6	11	1,130	2,364	1	13	11		
Cloah, ...	355	1	3	10	246	322	1	6	9	341	383	1	7	7		
Cahoreeke, ...	490	1	3	2	422	797	1	4	2	618	734	1	3	8		
Cahoreeke, ...	1,064	0	17	9	885	947	1	1	5	822	945	1	2	11		
Cahoreeke, ...	862	1	1	1	794	969	1	3	2	715	911	1	5	1		
Cahoreeke, ...	1,774	0	18	11	1,621	1,860	1	0	9	1,620	2,044	1	8	3		
Cahoreeke, ...	2,833	0	11	8	2,607	1,478	0	11	4	2,966	2,290	1	0	9		
Cahoreeke, ...	1,142	0	27	0	1,041	871	0	16	8	687	1,249	1	15	9		
Cahoreeke, ...	831	0	23	1	766	289	0	16	3	570	860	0	16	2		
Cahoreeke, ...	1,346	0	17	3	1,000	1,027	1	0	8	1,132	1,257	1	10	10		
Cahoreeke, ...	415	1	6	5	402	645	0	7	1	465	582	1	7	4		
Cahoreeke, ...	632	1	3	9	586	728	1	4	10	685	722	1	7	10		
Cahoreeke, ...	1,463	0	14	2	906	750	0	16	6	839	741	0	17	10		
Cahoreeke, ...	551	1	3	4	515	692	1	4	2	422	617	1	6	9		
Cahoreeke, ...	960	0	17	8	848	842	1	0	0	778	850	1	1	11		
Cahoreeke, ...	2,240	0	18	4	2,039	2,083	1	0	0	1,904	2,349	1	5	2		
Totals, ...	20,190	10	18	9	21,854	22,518	0	23	2	25,425	25,712	1	8	9		
UNION OF KENMARE.																
Ard, ...	861	1	1	4	916	1,045	1	2	19	856	1,061	1	4	6	4	10
Bane, ...	863	1	3	8	790	986	1	5	9	733	965	1	7	3		
Cahoreeke, ...	2,219	0	22	2	1,857	1,841	0	16	8	1,222	1,354	0	17	8		
Dromore, ...	1,654	1	1	9	797	1,103	1	3	10	717	1,118	1	11	3		
Glenties, ...	653	1	3	8	620	433	1	5	8	493	530	1	3	9		
Glenties, ...	663	1	3	8	622	784	1	6	1	524	799	1	10	5		
Glenties, ...	1,029	0	16	9	995	916	0	18	5	853	912	1	1	4		
Glenties, ...	2,030	1	2	6	2,051	8,412	2	6	8	2,473	3,394	1	12	8		
Glenties, ...	1,034	1	5	1	1,363	1,889	1	4	2	1,443	2,709	1	17	0		
Glenties, ...	1,260	0	16	7	1,348	1,525	0	19	12	1,460	1,781	1	4	4		
Totals, ...	14,112	9	15	11	13,900	14,138	1	0	5	14,621	15,121	1	3	5		
Totals, ...	15,309	11	0	1	13,333	14,796	1	2	2	17,024	16,234	1	7	5		
Total in respect of the Congested Districts in Co. Kerry.	25,045	11	0	8	24,873	21,876	1	1	5	30,309	36,248	1	5	2		

* Included by Order of the Lord Lieutenant.

† Average.

COUNTY CORK.

Urban and Electoral Division.	Popu- lation, 1881.	Amount of Valua- tion per head of Popula- tion, 1881.			Popu- lation, 1891.	Amount of Valua- tion per head of Popula- tion, 1891.			Popu- lation, 1901.	Amount of Valua- tion per head of Popula- tion, 1901.			Poor Rates for year ended 31st March, 1901.	
		£	s	d		£	s	d		£	s	d	On Apportioned Land.	On Other Rateable Rates.
UNION OF CARLETONS														
Adrigole, ...	1,761	0	13	8	1,541	1,199	0	15	7	1,438	1,318	0	17	0
Bee, ...	1,571	1	0	8	997	1,090	1	2	7	1,609	1,011	0	19	1
Coolagh, ...	2,819	0	16	0	1,759	1,992	1	2	7	1,638	1,989	1	4	4
Corryglass, ...	1,857	0	17	11	1,625	1,140	1	1	8	940	1,170	1	4	10
Kilnashinga, ...	2,749	0	15	1	2,578	2,965	0	16	0	3,183	2,077	0	19	0
Kilnashinga, ...	2,718	1	4	7	3,145	2,244	0	18	10	2,542	3,100	1	8	5
Kilnashinga, ...	1,284	1	0	8	1,229	1,267	1	3	8	1,093	1,379	1	4	5
Totals, ...	13,691	0	17	10	12,990	13,053	0	19	5	11,178	12,141	1	1	8
UNION OF MACHROOM														
Bedonkerry, ...	882	1	4	10	820	1,095	1	5	8	761	1,399	1	12	0
Clounagh, ...	532	1	4	2	491	945	1	6	9	463	694	1	9	10
Shenagh, ...	1,791	1	5	7	1,954	1,922	1	9	4	947	1,731	1	16	4
Totals, ...	2,605	1	4	10	2,907	3,299	1	7	4	2,171	3,625	1	12	5
UNION OF RANTHY														
Akil, ...	686	1	5	0	575	821	1	6	7	539	822	1	10	0
Durran East,* ...	691	1	11	4	535	997	1	17	3	467	1,005	2	2	10
Durran West,* ...	1,000	1	5	10	919	1,499	2	14	8	709	1,450	1	17	8
Glacough, ...	733	0	16	2	675	614	0	18	1	574	617	1	1	5
Glacough,* ...	1,434	1	5	4	1,176	1,783	1	10	6	1,070	1,801	1	12	8
Kilnashinga, ...	1,608	0	15	7	1,571	1,554	0	15	11	1,424	1,311	0	19	4
Kilnashinga, ...	655	0	18	8	763	534	1	1	11	647	859	1	6	4
Shenagh, ...	969	0	17	11	865	808	1	0	7	733	900	1	5	9
Totals, ...	8,314	4	2	0	7,579	9,512	1	4	3	6,249	8,754	1	8	0
UNION OF CLOSHILLY														
Geenasherry, ...	1,470	1	7	5	1,367	2,091	1	9	10	1,098	2,109	1	18	4
Totals, ...	1,470	1	7	5	1,367	2,091	1	9	10	1,098	2,109	1	18	4
UNION OF SKILLOUGH														
Aghalane South,* ...	1,678	1	8	5	1,606	2,691	1	13	5	1,839	2,794	1	15	7
Bredagh, ...	1,125	1	6	8	1,093	1,994	1	4	11	1,025	1,699	1	12	6
Cape Clare,* ...	1,295	1	9	4	1,315	1,314	1	4	7	1,193	1,318	1	8	5
Clounasherry South,* ...	1,613	1	6	6	1,389	1,837	1	10	9	964	1,562	1	17	10
Drumshinga North, ...	410	1	2	4	362	634	1	4	2	329	687	1	5	9
Tullagh, ...	1,798	0	19	0	2,103	1,684	0	16	0	1,378	1,714	1	1	8
Totals, ...	7,947	1	1	10	7,537	9,619	1	5	6	6,769	9,979	1	9	5
UNION OF SKULL														
Ballydooh, ...	2,338	1	0	5	2,621	2,437	1	4	2	1,406	2,550	1	7	9
Coolagh, ...	661	1	7	1	616	997	1	9	5	541	986	1	13	9
Clounagh, ...	1,283	1	6	7	1,419	1,521	1	2	5	1,359	1,548	1	5	2
Drumsherry, ...	940	1	6	8	788	1,147	1	9	1	988	1,154	1	13	6
Drumsherry, ...	1,029	1	8	0	865	1,188	1	6	10	719	1,102	1	10	7
Galen, ...	1,014	1	5	9	878	1,103	1	5	4	739	1,134	1	9	10
Skull, ...	1,461	1	4	1	1,457	1,775	1	4	4	1,674	1,888	1	2	6
Wormore, ...	575	1	0	0	528	938	1	2	8	687	949	1	7	0
Totals, ...	9,280	1	1	10	8,894	11,928	1	4	11	8,120	11,764	1	7	7
Total in respect of the Congested Districts in Co. Cork.	43,284	1	1	10	39,624	69,862	1	3	6	35,605	47,877	1	6	10
Total in respect of all the Congested Districts Counties.	611,160	10	18	4	560,969	668,595	1	9	4	506,725	575,043	1	3	9

* Included by order of the Land Commission.

† Average.

SUMMARY AS TO VALUATION PER HEAD OF THE POPULATION IN CONGESTED AND NON-CONGESTED ELECTORAL DIVISIONS according to the Census of 1901.

COUNTY.	CONGESTED ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.							Number of Electoral Divisions in County not Scheduled as Congested.	Total Number of Electoral Divisions in County.	Percentage of Electoral Divisions under 20s. per capita Number in County.
	Below 10s. per head.	10s. and under 10s.	10s. and under 20s.	20s. and under 30s.	Total under 30s.	30s. and over.	Total Number of Scheduled Electoral Divisions.			
Donegal, ...	12	13	19	59	73	16	89	60	149	45.9
Sligo, ...	-	-	1	7	8	12	20	64	84	9.5
Leitrim, ...	-	-	1	12	13	35	38	40	79	26.6
Monaghan, ...	-	-	1	12	13	7	20	56	119	11.6
Clara, ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	158	154	-
Mayo, ...	9	15	21	37	82	12	94	63	156	32.9
Galway, ...	6	10	9	20	45	12	57	171	226	19.7
Cork, W.B., ...	-	-	4	16	20	18	33	102	135	14.
Kerry, ...	-	1	14	62	57	20	77	97	174	32.7
	27	19	70	173	311	118	429	840	1,269	24.5

Decrease in Population of the Congested Districts between 1891 and 1901=8.2 per cent.

Increase of Valuation in Congested Districts between 1891 and 1901=3.22 per cent.

Increase in Valuation per head of Population in the entire Congested Districts between 1891 and 1901 was 2s. 5d., namely, from £1 0s. 4d. to £1 2s. 9d.

F. W. D. MITCHELL,

Secretary.

II.—SUMMARY of Fishery Loans Issued, Arrears now outstanding, and Amount Written Off.

County.	Loans issued since 1895.				Arrears to 31st May 1904.				Amount written off.			
	Large Boats. ¹		Small Loans.		Large Boats.		Small Loans.		Large Boats.		Small Loans.	
	Number of Boats.	Amount Issued.	Number of Loans.	Amount.	Number of Boats.	Amount.	Number of Loans.	Amount.	Number of Boats.	Amount.	Number of Loans.	Amount.
Dorset	10	£ 1,131 15 11	771	£ 7,796 15 4	—	—	8	£ 7 10 8	—	—	3	£ 33 10 11
Gloucester	1	—	75	£ 628 15 10	—	—	5	£ 4 7 4	—	—	4	£ 34 8 3
Hereford	0	—	607	£ 4,058 7 1	—	—	35	£ 53 30 3	—	—	3	£ 37 15 9
Gloucestershire	27	£ 25,700 15 3	3,115	£ 9,455 1 1	—	—	76	£ 258 21 11	3	£ 445 0 0	30	£ 75 18 8
Leicestershire	66	£ 6,790 4 5	1,010	£ 7,059 14 10	28	£ 286 7 10	59	£ 33 5 6	11	£ 1,552 7 8	6	£ 47 10 8
Leicestershire	33	£ 2,845 15 5	171	£ 3,409 5 6	4	£ 66 15 6	1	£ 4 7 6	5	£ 375 13 1	5	£ 47 4 3
Leicestershire	—	—	1	£ 7 0 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	139	£ 44,705 9 8	5,935	£ 31,279 19 2	45	£ 470 8 11	149	£ 392 1 0	26	£ 3,571 9 7	55	£ 314 8 4

* On these 240 large boats, in nearly every case more than one loan has been issued.

† This amount includes a sum of £2,178 advanced prior 31st March, 1895, on Large Boats.

September, 1904.

III.—RETURN GIVING CERTAIN PARTICULARS OF

County.	District.	Population.			Area.			Valuation.		
		Com- puted portion of Union.	Non- computed portion of Union.	Total.	Com- puted portion of Union.	Non- computed portion of Union.	Total.	Com- puted portion of Union.	Non- computed portion of Union.	Total.
Donegal.	Donkwa.	79,881	9,282	89,163	Acres 101,228	41,130	142,358	£ 22,548	£ 10,280	£ 32,828
"	Midland.	93,734	7,638	101,372	75,668	25,849	101,517	12,602	18,231	30,833
"	Letterkenny.	2,865	9,618	12,483	53,368	41,885	95,253	5,325	21,263	26,588
"	Stranorlar.	4,873	7,384	12,257	74,051	47,061	121,112	7,963	21,043	29,006
"	Dunmagog.	14,731	—	14,731	126,678	—	126,678	11,868	—	11,868
"	Glenties.	22,146	—	22,146	107,471	—	107,471	21,413	—	21,413
"	Donnal.	16,119	6,303	22,422	103,789	21,503	125,292	39,363	14,938	54,301
Down, Fermanagh, and Lettin.	Ballyvaughan.	4,859	16,008	20,867	29,843	103,319	133,162	7,302	64,876	72,178
"	Waterlawn.	7,899	16,322	24,221	52,335	96,022	148,357	11,445	23,154	34,599
Cavan and Leitrim.	Bawnboy.	4,705	13,128	17,833	22,107	25,328	47,435	4,665	22,652	27,317
Leitrim and Rosemont.	Currik-of-Shannon.	7,635	12,522	20,157	44,763	58,520	103,283	11,755	27,833	39,588
Leitrim.	Meath.	5,711	14,123	19,834	39,030	40,437	79,467	14,213	26,633	40,846
Sligo.	Sligo.	6,899	22,149	29,048	13,124	126,671	139,795	5,655	34,739	40,394
"	Drumara West.	2,809	14,015	16,824	24,626	67,053	91,679	4,625	23,529	28,154
"	Tobemary.	22,582	6,618	29,200	72,586	52,829	125,415	36,285	22,667	58,952
Mayo.	Kildale.	2,124	4,330	6,454	35,353	78,507	113,860	2,378	12,559	14,937
"	Balsall.	12,045	—	12,045	173,830	—	173,830	10,623	—	10,623
"	Ballina.	11,719	12,612	24,331	69,835	69,795	139,630	22,374	36,621	59,005
"	Westport.	16,337	3,345	19,682	27,140	79,671	106,811	14,235	13,737	27,972
"	Swickard.	42,323	1,869	44,192	163,681	7,865	171,546	39,899	5,653	45,552
"	Carleton.	21,034	14,438	35,472	71,889	69,834	141,723	25,681	36,600	62,281
"	Chesmore.	39,718	1,364	41,082	76,333	40,751	117,084	25,567	13,436	39,003
"	Ballinacree.	4,967	26,284	31,251	63,631	39,789	103,420	4,225	26,323	30,548
Roscommon and Sligo.	Boyle.	7,593	22,477	30,070	31,947	117,203	149,150	14,484	64,674	79,158
Roscommon.	Confagh.	16,558	8,963	25,521	106,690	69,800	176,490	21,552	43,564	65,116
"	Stinkard.	598	14,624	15,222	4,623	25,716	30,339	1,211	48,322	49,533
Roscommon and Galway.	Ballinacree.	555	20,284	20,839	6,867	162,122	168,989	646	78,590	79,236
Galway.	Clifden.	10,310	623	10,933	139,330	24,542	163,872	17,309	1,379	18,688
"	Clontarf.	17,719	—	17,719	273,800	—	273,800	36,654	—	36,654
"	Galway.	22,499	22,674	45,173	306,300	98,130	394,430	56,893	40,975	97,868
"	Glennacady.	3,228	5,119	8,347	24,364	60,887	85,251	20,721	21,191	41,912
"	Tam.	4,517	26,707	31,224	27,161	304,363	331,524	4,408	39,354	43,762
"	Mouthdown.	1,365	12,626	13,991	5,246	37,368	42,614	1,677	35,567	37,244
"	Loughrea.	1,713	14,448	16,161	35,051	113,233	148,284	1,476	74,071	75,547
"	Portlanna.	677	5,617	6,294	3,800	69,354	73,154	681	34,912	35,593
Clare.	Boonell.	265	15,000	15,265	4,984	32,619	37,603	254	28,899	29,153
Kerry and Limerick.	Disowel.	8,490	37,196	45,686	47,464	112,513	160,177	12,518	66,662	79,180
Kerry.	Trillick.	16,156	24,731	40,887	90,310	108,666	198,976	12,909	42,647	55,556
"	Dingle.	15,507	1,967	17,474	102,627	22,022	124,649	19,890	3,303	23,193
"	Kilberry.	16,546	50,253	66,799	79,067	178,562	257,629	32,695	69,335	102,030
"	Caherisheen.	22,425	—	22,425	109,300	—	109,300	26,715	—	26,715
"	Keonara.	15,023	5,501	20,524	156,659	62,737	219,396	23,124	5,969	29,093
Cork.	Clontarf.	15,178	—	15,178	23,445	—	23,445	12,541	—	12,541
"	Macross.	2,179	30,885	33,064	28,344	103,389	131,733	2,636	61,307	63,943
"	Bantry.	5,518	7,286	12,804	67,705	41,800	109,505	8,734	14,538	23,272
"	Clontarf.	1,695	18,064	19,759	2,223	23,180	25,403	2,109	40,479	42,588
"	St. John's.	67,09	18,426	85,515	38,376	86,865	125,241	9,972	36,167	46,139
"	St. John's.	3,508	2,664	6,172	61,320	35,308	96,628	11,205	4,184	15,389
Total.	—	585,722	466,745	1,052,467	3,698,703	3,599,177	7,297,880	477,855	1,596,612	2,074,467

POOR LAW UNIONS CONTAINING CONGESTED ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.

Average Valuation per Head of Population according to Census of 1891.			Poor Rate struck for year ending 25th March, 1900.			Labourers' Cottages.		Funding Rate for Labourers' Acts purposes.	UNION.	COUNTY.
In entire Union.	In Congested Districts.	In Non-congested Districts.	On Agricultural Land.	On other Land.	On other Land.	Number Built.	Average Weekly Rent.			
1 7 11	1 3 4	1 8 3	2 0	0 4	0 4	0	1 8	18	Isleworth.	Donagh.
1 8 10	0 18 11	2 8 4	3 8	4 0	4 0	—	—	—	Milford.	"
2 8 8	1 8 8	2 10 10	2 8	2 2	2 2	41	2 8 and 3 0	4	Letchworth.	"
2 5 1	1 7 0	2 18 3	2 2	4 7	4 7	35	1 8 to 1 10	7	Stratford.	"
0 15 0	0 15 0	—	0 7	0 7	0 7	—	—	—	Dundragh.	"
0 12 11	0 12 11	—	0 1	7 11	7 11	—	—	—	Glenties.	"
1 16 4	1 8 8	2 8 13	2 2	6 8	6 8	—	—	—	Down.	"
0 16 3	0 12 0	2 10 8	—	—	—	16	1 8	2-41	Ballymote.	Down, Fermanagh, and Leitrim.
1 20 11	1 8 7	2 8 2	6 0	0 11	0 11	22	1 14	9	Maroon.	Leitrim.
2 3 7	1 8 1	2 8 11	2 10	4 2	4 2	4	1 8	75	Rowan.	Down and Leitrim.
2 10 0	1 11 9	3 1 4	2 0	1 10	1 10	40	2 11 and 2 12	1	Carraig-na-Sionnach.	Leitrim and Roscommon.
0 8 1	1 12 4	2 0 1	3 0	6 8	6 8	30	1 9	1	Malin.	Leitrim.
2 14 3	1 9 2	2 18 10	2 7	6 4	6 4	33	1 2	13	Sligo.	Sligo.
2 25 7	1 12 3	2 11 1	2 1	1 10	1 10	33	1 1	15	Drumree West.	"
2 3 8	1 8 2	2 9 7	3 7	4 3	4 3	—	—	—	Tobacco.	"
2 0 8	1 0 11	2 16 3	2 8	4 1	4 1	—	—	—	Kilalea.	Mayo.
0 15 4	0 15 4	—	0 4	0 4	0 4	—	—	—	Belmont.	"
1 18 2	1 0 1	2 12 7	3 4	0 0	0 0	—	—	—	Ballina.	"
1 6 6	0 10 1	2 3 8	3 5	0 5	0 5	—	—	—	Wexford.	"
0 25 11	0 17 11	3 0 9	2 5	6 7	6 7	—	—	—	Swinsford.	"
1 10 5	1 2 7	2 4 7	3 11	4 5	4 5	—	—	—	Castletown.	"
1 14 1	1 7 8	2 12 2	4 0	0 5	0 5	—	—	—	Claremorris.	"
2 17 6	0 17 0	2 8 2	2 6	3 10	3 10	—	—	—	Ballinacorney.	"
0 9 2	1 8 8	2 18 0	2 0	1 1	1 1	30	1 4 and 1 5	—	Boyle.	Roscommon and Sligo.
0 6 8	1 0 7	4 12 2	3 0	3 4	3 4	—	—	16	Castletown.	Roscommon.
3 6 8	1 6 7	3 8 4	1 8	2 11	2 11	32	1 0 and 1 1	—	Stranstown.	"
4 0 8	1 0 8	4 0 8	2 0	1 8	1 8	37	1 0 and 1 1	37	Ballinacorney.	Roscommon and Galway.
0 19 7	0 10 8	2 2 8	4 8	7 5	7 5	—	—	—	Clifton.	Galway.
0 17 7	0 17 7	—	3 8	0 9	0 9	—	—	—	Oughlin.	"
1 18 6	0 17 5	2 5 8	3 9	0 10	0 10	—	—	—	Galway.	"
1 18 5	1 10 10	2 11 5	5 4	0 1	0 1	—	—	—	Glenties.	"
2 50 0	1 10 3	2 16 11	5 0	4 8	4 8	—	—	—	Town.	"
2 35 11	1 4 0	2 10 11	5 2	4 7	4 7	—	—	—	Moatshew.	"
3 35 2	0 20 3	4 1 3	0 5	0 11	0 11	16	1 2	48	Longford.	"
3 18 2	1 8 8	4 1 0	3 1	4 7	4 7	19	0 8	—	Portlough.	"
3 18 9	1 15 1	2 11 9	2 6	4 8	4 8	22	0 10	8	Sligo.	Sligo.
1 15 11	1 9 5	2 11 0	4 3	0 9	0 9	300	1 0	8	Lisnol.	Kerry and Limerick.
1 16 5	1 8 5	2 19 8	3 0	2 4	2 4	225	1 1	571	Trillick.	Kerry.
1 6 7	1 10 10	2 10 8	4 8	7 4	7 4	1	1 2	9	Dingle.	"
3 30 0	1 10 11	2 12 0	5 1	6 2	6 2	160	0 11	2	Kilmore.	"
1 30 0	1 10 10	—	3 8	8 5	8 5	—	—	—	Coleraine.	"
1 9 3	1 7 4	1 18 7	0 8	0 8	0 8	—	—	17	Kesh.	"
1 2 8	1 1 8	—	2 3	0 1	0 1	—	—	—	Castletown.	Carl.
2 17 2	1 13 5	2 29 8	3 0	0 8	0 8	413	1 6 to 1 0	119	Maroon.	"
1 34 8	1 9 0	2 0 7	6 2	8 5	8 5	38	0 10 to 1 1	1	Enniscorthy.	"
0 13 10	1 16 4	2 16 8	7 3	4 1	4 1	505	0 10 to 1 1	2	Clonsilla.	"
1 18 8	1 9 8	2 1 4	5 4	6 8	6 8	255	0 8 to 1 1	77	Sligo.	"
1 10 2	1 7 7	1 15 11	1 11	4 8	4 8	37	1 1 to 1 2	205	Sligo.	"
1 10 8	1 3 8	2 15 8	—	—	—	2,271	—	—	—	Total.

* In these cases the Union extends for administrative purposes to the County mentioned, and the Rates are shown in consecutive order for the Union, but in each County containing Congested Districts, but the Rates for Congested Districts, Down, or Limerick are not quoted, as these Counties do not contain Congested Districts.

APPENDIX IV.

Memorandum and Tables handed in by Mr. H. Doran in connection with the evidence given by him before the Commission.

Memorandum H. on Land Work of Board.

I hold the office of Chief Land Inspector since 1899, and have charge of all the estates work of the Board, and of the Parish Committee schemes.

Particulars of Estates acquired by the Board.

Class I., purchased 1891 to 1896.

Class II., purchased 1896 to 1903.

Class III., purchased since 1903.

Summary of all Estates purchased.

Before proceeding to give details of the work that I have carried out for the Board, I beg to give the following particulars of:

I. The estates acquired by the Board between the years 1891 and 1896, and which were purchased by their own funds. They are only three in number, namely, French, Clare Island, and Leonard.

II. The estates purchased (except in 7 cases bought for cash) by means of advances of Land Stock under the Act of 1896, from 1896 to 1903.

III. A list of the estates purchased (except in 5 cases), or arranged to be purchased, since the passing of the Irish Land Act, 1903, by cash advances made under the provisions of that Act.

RETURN showing Estates Purchased by the Board, from 1891 to 1896; 1896 to 1903, and from 1903 to date.

Period.	Number of Estates.	AREA.			Poor Law Valuation.	Number of Towns.	Yearly Rental of the Tenanted Lands.	Purchase Price of Estates.	Observations.
		Enclosed Townships, Water, and Waste.	Un-tenanted.	Total.					
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£		£	£	
1891 to 1896.	3	4,065	5,039	9,104	13,4	314	3,342	15,048	Purchased by Board's Funds, = £10 of P. L. Valuation.
1896 to 1903.	13	164,092	18,566	182,658	33,797	4,023	36,153	527,484	Purchased by advances of Land Stock, = 159 of P. L. Valuation.
1903 to date.	106	298,339	35,535	333,874	60,937	7,799	43,636	1,222,508	Purchased by Cash advanced under Act of 1903, = 20,53 of P. L. Valuation.
	122	302,456	43,574	346,030	66,860	14,026	74,688	1,598,297	= 1914 years' purchase of P. L. Valuation.

Brief account of the Board's initial procedure which led to the purchase of the first Estate.

As the Board's relations with the Land Commission existed mainly in connection with the purchase and re-sale of estates, and the amalgamation of small holdings, I think it advisable that I should give a brief account of the Board's initial procedure which led to the purchase of the first estate; and then to give particulars of typical difficulties experienced in dealing with some of the estates set out in lists handed in, under the following heads:—

- (a) Purchase and re-sale,
- (b) Striping and amalgamation of holdings,
- (c) Migration,
- (d) Allotment of tenancy,
- (e) Inability to procure sufficient untenanted land; and other matters.

Appointment of Inspectors.

Local Inquiries.

I was first engaged by the Board in March, 1899, as Inspector. The first duty entrusted to me was the preparation of reports on a number of the inland and other congested districts in Connacht. The remainder of the congested districts were assigned to other Inspectors, and we were instructed to examine into the existing condition of the inhabitants of these districts, and their means of livelihood, character of the soil, amount of land (if any) available for the extension of the holdings, the number of migratory labourers, the fishing accommodation in such districts as were maritime and the possibility of improving it, character and extent of local industries, and other relevant particulars bearing on the conditions of life of the people and the resources of the districts in which they lived.

We were also requested to offer suggestions as to any possible method for improving the condition of the people, and developing the resources of each district. These reports were printed, and available for reference.

In addition to the reports on the several districts assigned to me, I furnished a general report on the inland migratory districts, with special suggestions for their improvement.

Recommendations for Improvement of Congested Districts.

The recommendations made in my reports specially emphasized the necessity for agricultural development throughout all the districts, and migration and enlargement of holdings where the necessary land could be procured. My principal suggestions may be summarised as follows:—

1. To enlarge, where practicable, all holdings under £10 valuation, by the migration of a number of the larger landholders to suitable grazing lands, and utilizing the land vacated by them for the enlargement of the adjacent small holdings.
2. To promote better systems of agriculture, through the agency of district agriculturists, who would teach the farmers to cultivate their holdings in the best manner, and assist them in securing, through local organisation and other means, improved facilities for the marketing of their surplus produce, and for the supply of good seeds and manures. Improved means of transport by rail or otherwise is essential to agricultural development in remote districts.

3. To improve their live stock by the use of suitable sires, and exercise care in the selection of their breeding animals.
4. To make the production of eggs and poultry a special industry.
5. To teach the people to grow vegetables suitable for their dietary, and how to cook them properly.
6. To accomplish any large measure of success in the agricultural development of some of the congested districts, main and arterial drainage schemes must be undertaken either by the Board, or through assistance from the Board, or some other State department.
7. To facilitate the planting of trees for shelter on waste corners, and in the neighbourhood of houses and other suitable places on the farm.
8. To make the teaching of agriculture a compulsory subject in all rural National Schools, and for this purpose to have attached to each school in the country districts a school farm and school garden.
9. To have attached to each school a technical class-room (or utilize the existing schools during specified hours for the purpose), in which the young people of the neighbourhood would get instruction in technical matters relating to agriculture, and in domestic economy, the management of poultry, dairying, &c., and also in any cottage industry or other industrial work that might be considered remunerative or useful.
10. Inducing, and if necessary compelling, the people to keep their houses and surroundings in a sanitary condition.
11. To do everything possible within reasonable limits to develop the fishing industry in the maritime districts; and in the districts which are not maritime and are remote from lands suitable for migration and the enlargement of holdings, to promote and assist in establishing such industries as may be considered suitable by persons having expert knowledge on the subject.

The Board arranged soon after its formation that such schemes of agricultural development as they agreed to undertake would be carried out for them by the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission, under the control of Mr. Wrench (the Land Commissioner nominated to the Board under the Act to represent Agriculture and Forestry).

Board's Agricultural Development Scheme undertaken by the Agricultural Department of Land Commission.

ESTATES PURCHASED.—CLASS I.

(a.) In October, 1893, I furnished a report advising the purchase of the French Estate, Co. Galway which contained an area of 1,420A. 2a. 39r., held as follows:—

	A.	B.	P.
In the occupation of 77 agricultural tenants, at rents amounting to £400 9s. 0d.,	846	0	39
Held under a grazing letting at a rent of £123 10s. 0d.,	350	0	8
Bogs and woods in owner's hands,	224	1	32
Total,	1,420	2	39

French Estate, the first Estate purchased by Board.
Area, Rent, &c.

Of the 77 tenants the holdings of 50 had Poor-Law Valuations under £5, 19 over £5 and not exceeding £6, and only eight were over £8.

It appeared a very desirable property to buy, so that the small holdings upon it could be enlarged as contemplated by Sections 37 and 38 of the Act of 1891.

Reasons for purchase.

The estate was for sale in the Land Judge's Court, and after consideration of my report the Board decided to offer for it a price not exceeding my valuation. The Secretary (Mr. Micks) accordingly applied, on the 6th February, 1893, to the Land Commission to purchase the estate for the Board under Section 39 of the Act of 1891. On the 7th February the Secretary of the Land Commission wrote stating that the Land Commissioners regret they could not purchase the property for the Board for the reasons stated in his letter, and that the Commissioners considered that the Statute (Section 39 of the Act of 1891) did not contemplate the purchase by the Land Commission of such properties merely for the purpose of increasing the size of small holdings.

Refusal of Land Commission to purchase Estate for Board.

On receipt of this letter the Board decided not to accept the Land Commission decision, and directed their Solicitor to apply to the Court for an adjournment of the sale, and to submit a case, with the Land Commission letter, to Counsel. The Counsel selected happened to be the present Judicial Commissioner of the Irish Land Commission, Judge Meredith, who gave his opinion that the Land Commission were bound, at the request of the Board, and with money advanced by the Board, to purchase any land which the Board required for the purposes of Part II. of the Land Act of 1891.

Counsel's Opinion.

After receipt of this opinion other correspondence took place with the Land Commission, who finally agreed to offer for the estate the price fixed by the Board. Their offer was accepted on the 31st March, 1893.

Purchase of Estate.

A curious feature of the transaction was, that although the Board paid for the estate with their own money, the Land Commission were the owners of it, the Board not having powers under the Act of 1891 to hold land or be landlords. Furthermore, the Board were advised that, as they were not owners or landlords within the meaning of the Land Purchase Acts, the Land Commission could not make advances to the tenants to enable them to buy their holdings, and reply the Board the price of the estate. To get over these difficulties, an amending Congested Districts Board Act was passed on the 24th August, 1893, empowering the Board to acquire land for the enlargement of small holdings in a congested district, to be landlords of land so acquired, and to nominate two of their body to hold it as trustees.

Board not Owners.

Amending Act of 1893.

Possession of
French Estate

Possession was obtained in May, 1893, of the land on the French Estate held under Court lettings, but as sod fences could not be erected during the summer, and many of the tenants who were migratory laborers were absent in England, the operations of striping and re-arrangement of the holdings had to be deferred until the following November, and it was practically completed before the 31st March, 1894—i.e., within five months.

Results without loss.

A full statement of the result will be found in the Board's Annual Report for the period ending 31st March, 1894, from which it will be seen that, notwithstanding the fact that the estate was bought in the open market, the Board were able, without loss to their funds, to sell the holdings and untenanted lands to the tenants at sixteen years' purchase of the rental payable at time of purchase, after spending over £1,500 in improvements.

Sale of Holdings to
tenants in completion.
Guarantee Deposit
required by Land
Commission.

After the Board sold the holdings to the tenants, at what was considered a low price, having regard to the fact that over one-third of the estate was in owner's hands before sale to the tenants, the Land Commission had the holdings inspected, and they retained on guarantee deposit £1,917 of the sale prices out of a total of £9,268, on the grounds of insufficient security.

Amending Act of
1894.

This action of the Land Commission caused the Board to make representations to the Government, which resulted in the passing of the Congested Districts Board Act of the 25th August, 1894, under which the Land Commission were obliged to accept a guarantee from the Board to make good any default by the purchasing tenant to the extent to which it might be made good by the guarantee deposit, instead of retaining portion of the purchase money.

Legal difficulties.

It will thus be seen that at the very outset of the Board's land purchase transactions they found themselves so embarrassed with legal and other difficulties in carrying out the purchase and re-sale that two additional Acts of Parliament were passed within twelve months (August, 1893, to August, 1894), to enable them to complete their first transaction in hand.

Profit on Land Stock

The purchase agreements were executed by the tenants in 1894-5, and after the holdings were vested the Board were paid the proceeds of sale in Land Stock issued by the Land Commission. As land stock was then selling at a premium, the Board made a profit of £284, portion of which sum has since been expended on the estate in drainage and other works.

Enlargement of
holdings under £5 10s.

As there was not sufficient land to give substantial enlargements to all the small holdings, it was decided not to give any additional land to holdings rented over £5 10s. 0d., the untenanted land being applied exclusively to the enlargement of the smaller holdings, so as to level them up as near the £5 10s. 0d. limit as the available land permitted, those having the smallest holdings getting the largest additions. In this way 60 holdings were enlarged, and all the tenants got strips of tarry and cut-away bog. When the striping was completed there were only eight tenants having holdings that did not exceed £5 Poor Law Valuation, and these were persons unfit to manage larger holdings.

The following is a summary of the Receipts and Expenditure on the Estate:—

EXPENDITURE.				RECEIPTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Paid for Estate and redemption of Charges,	7,500	5	10	Sale of Holdings,	2,400	0	0
Legal Expenses,	400	2	4	Payment for occupancy by 3 in one par- cellet,	150	0	0
Building and replating houses,	474	0	0	Average of rent,	438	8	6
Roads, fences,	558	11	7	Grading, and sale of hay,	323	2	7
Drains,	219	2	8	Swicklands,	2	17	6
Incidents,	167	6	7				
	48,529	6	7		410,500	5	1

Compulsory Powers.

The Board were so encouraged at the result of their operations on the French Estate that they desired to acquire further estates for similar treatment, and also tracts of untenanted land for the purposes of migration and enlargement of holdings; but having failed to come to terms with the owners for the purchase of such lands, they passed the following resolution asking for more funds and compulsory powers to acquire lands, which is recorded in their Annual Report for the period ending 31st March, 1895:—

Resolution asking for
more funds and
compulsory Powers.

That the Congested Districts Board is in possession of information, through their Inspectors, that there are large tracts of land that could be used to enlarge the holdings of small occupiers and promote schemes of migration in congested districts. The Board are, however, of opinion that it will be impossible for them to give due effect to this important department of their work unless more funds are placed at their disposal, and compulsory powers given to them to acquire such lands at their just value."

On the 15th March, 1895, the Board purchased with their own funds, and without reference to the Land Commission, the Clare Island Estate for the sum of £5,006.

The extent of the island was 8,949 acres, the Poor Law Valuation £507 18s. 6d., and the Area, Rent, rental £485 7s. 6d., payable by 98 tenants.

The Board got possession of 749 acres of land, valued at £92, which was held under temporary lettings. Unimproved lands

As set out in the Annual Report of the 31st March, 1895, the Board had considerable hesitation in purchasing this island, for the tenants were largely in arrears of rent, owing £1,796 to the 1st May, 1895, and they also owed large arrears of rates. About twenty of them had been evicted for non-payment of rent, and the islanders were generally regarded as being in a lawless condition, for they had for a couple of years or so ceased to pay either rent, rates, or taxes. Board's hesitation to purchase.

It was found that, while there were only 68 tenants on the landlord's rental, there were 98 persons in occupation of land on the island. Sub-lettings

There were practically no fences upon it, even to protect the growing crops, and these were only saved from destruction by the cattle and sheep through the vigilance of the tenants and members of their families, who, with the aid of dogs, protected them from daylight to dark from the springtime to harvest. During the winter the stock were practically allowed to roam at will all over the island. Want of fences.

The first work undertaken on the island by the Board was the construction of a wall to separate the land which was cultivable or partly cultivable from the mountain grazing. The land between this wall and the sea was partitioned into stripes or holdings, each of which was fenced from the commonage wall to the sea. Construction of wall fence commonage.

A stripe was assigned to each tenant entitled to a new holding, on the basis of the rent of the old holding, and as an appendage to each holding there was given the right of grazing a specified number of "rams" or "collops" on the mountain commonage outside the new wall, which comprised about two-thirds of the area of the island. Distribution of stripes, with rights of grazing

The Commission will have some idea of the labour involved in this work when I state that the commonage wall was over seven miles in length, over six feet high, built of dry stone, and with a substantial coping on top; and that over thirty-five miles of masonry or boundary fences were made from this wall to the sea; necessary roads were made, and several houses were erected and others improved. Magnitude of works.

All the tenants were obliged to pay within six months a substantial portion (averaging about two years' rent) of the arrears due by them. They had little difficulty in doing this out of their earnings at the construction of the walls, fences, roads, and other improvement works, and from the sale of live stock. Discharge of Arrears through earnings.

The works were in progress for about five years, and the total expenditure in improvement works was £8,589, from which may be deducted £3,514, received for rent and arrears, leaving a net expenditure of £5,075, to which is to be added the purchase price of the five-eighths of the estate and of tenants' interest in holdings taken up, amounting together to £5,478, making the total net cost of estate £10,547. Amount expended on estate.

The Board were of opinion that, having regard to the bad reputation which the Clare Islanders had for meeting their engagements in connection with the payment of rent and rates, and the remote situation of the island, the Land Commission might decline to make any substantial advance in respect of the sale prices of the holdings without requiring a guarantee under the Act of 1894 for a considerable sum. And having ascertained from actuarial calculations that the system of repayment of the Land Commission advances, with decadal reductions, by an annuity at the rate of four per cent. for the first ten years was 44; for the second decade, £3 8s. 7d.; for the third decade, £2 18s. 9d.; and until the balance of the advance was repaid, £2 10s. 5d., worked out for a period of 68½ years, equivalent to a uniform annuity of three and a quarter per cent., they decided that as they purchased the island with their own money, they would sell it direct to the tenants under agreements to repay the purchase-money by annuities payable for 68½ years at the rate of three and a quarter per cent. It will be observed that this system of financing was adopted for the Act of 1903. Direct sale by Board, and reasons for same.

Under this arrangement the holdings were sold for £9,688, the gross annuity on which, payable by the tenants, amounts to £514, and the net loss to the Board's funds in dealing with this very difficult estate was £879, plus loss of interest on the capital invested in estate while on hands. Total sale price and Total Annuity.

Considering that the tenants' former rents were £485, and the Poor Law Valuation £507, and that, after an expenditure of £8,589 on improvement works, the tenants got their improved holdings on an annuity of £514, the Board were satisfied that they had been able to confer very substantial benefits upon them without a disproportionate loss to their funds. Loss on re-sale Benefits conferred.

Delay of sale, and means for same. Application of earnings by tenants to improve their condition by purchase of Live Stock. Six years elapsed from the date of the purchase of this estate to the completion of the sale. The large expenditure made was mainly earned by the tenants. Many of them who were extremely poor and without live stock applied a substantial part of their earnings to provide themselves with stock.

No detaching assistant.

If the work on this island had been done in a hasty and less thorough manner, I am convinced that little benefit would have been conferred on the islanders; whereas, under the treatment they received, nearly all of them have been put into a fairly satisfactory financial position, and up to the present there has not been one defaulting annuitant. This is important, as there can be no doubt that the first five years after the tenants are placed on new or re-arranged holdings is the most trying period, for it takes some time before they are able, by better cultivation and management, to increase the productiveness of their holdings or receive any return for their labour.

Important considerations.

I submit that these are very important considerations in explanation of the delay in the re-arrangement of poor estates of this kind which needed radical treatment.

The island was sold to seventy-six tenants, the gross Poor Law Valuations of the holdings being £507, or an average of £6 13s. 5d. per holding.

Holdings economic.

With few exceptions the holdings may be regarded as economic, if the islanders work the land in a fairly husband-like manner, and take some trouble to improve their cattle and sheep.

Branding of Stock on commonage.

In order to prevent any of the tenants from keeping more stock upon the commonage than they are entitled to under their agreements, it has been arranged to have the stock of each owner branded once a year. At this stock-taking in September, 1905, the number of live stock on the island was as follows:—

145 Cows	2,609 Sheep	
60 Horses	119 Calves	
6 Foals	72 Yearling	Cattle.
9 Pigs	44 Two-year-old	"
39 Asses	1 Three-year-old	"

Leonard Estate Purchase.

The next estate acquired by the Board was the Leonard Estate, purchased by their own funds in the Land Judge's Court, on the 14th August, 1899, the day before the passing of the Land Act of 1896.

Area, rent.

The gross acreage was 1,321 acres, and the rental £364, with a Poor Law Valuation of £325. The price paid for this estate was £5,545; my valuation was only £3,900, including value of seaweed and rent and arrears due.

Court lettings.

671a. On 39r. of rough grazing and turlough were held by a Court tenant, at a rent of £41, in the townland of Carna; and 46a. 1a. 29r. of good grass lands was held on Finish Island by another Court tenant, at a rent of £45.

Importance of purchase.

It was represented to the Board that upon the larger of these Court lettings all the tenants of the estate got their supply of turlough, and that a direct sale to the persons in occupation through the Land Judge's Court would be disastrous to the permanent tenants. The Board instructed the Secretary to buy the estate in the open Court, which he did for the price above-named, which was £1,660 in excess of my estimate of the fair value. The high price realised at sale was largely accounted for by the competition of the two Court tenants, who were bidders in anticipation of getting the price they offered, or a substantial portion of it, advanced by the State to enable them to buy.

Possession.

The Board did not get possession of the Court lettings until the 25th January, 1897.

Striping and enlargement of holdings.

(b.) After getting possession of the grazing farm on Finish Island, it was utilised for the enlargement of the adjacent small holdings; and on the large tract of mountain and bog in Carna there were allotted to each of the tenants on the estate plots of turlough, while grazing rights over the remainder were given to the tenants of the small holdings adjacent to it.

Character of soil.

This was an exceptionally poor estate, and the land, except that in Finish and Masco Islands, mostly of the poorest character of the Commons type, interspersed with rocks and bogs.

Number of plots held in detached parts.

The holdings were held in several detached parts, as follows:—

Masco Island.—Rent, £63 3s. 5d.; 29 holdings in 140 detached plots.

Finish Island.—Rental (excluding Court letting), £33 11s. 10d.; held in 81 detached plots by 22 tenants.

Carna.—Rental (excluding Court letting), £21 18s. 0d., from 27 holdings in 49 detached parts.

The striping, as shown on the final map, and fencing of the new holdings, was a difficult and expensive work.

House improvement.

Many of the houses were quite unfit for human habitation, several houses had to be built, and substantial grants were given for the improvement of others.

The improvement works carried out on the estate cost £5,710; the receipts from the time of purchase to re-sale amounted to £1,878, leaving the net loss on re-sale £3,832, which was very excessive, chiefly owing to the very exceptional circumstances under which the Board paid for the estate £1,600 more than my estimate of its value; and also that a considerable portion of the outlay was of a non-reproductive character, and could not be charged to the lands without making the holdings too dear. A large portion of the outlay was in connection with the fencing of the stripes, which included a great deal of rocky and worthless land interspersed with patches of cultivable land, the construction of roads, and the erection of houses on holdings so small that only a very small rent (in no case exceeding fifteen shillings) could be added to the value of the land in respect of the buildings erected thereon.

Large loss on re-sale reasons for.

The estate was sold directly by the Board in the same way as Clare Island, under agreements to repay the sale price and interest thereon by annuities at $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. per annum in 68½ years.

Direct sale instead of through Land Commission.

The total sale price was £6,345, the annuity on which is £206, against the rent of the estate at the time of purchase, which amounted to £363 12s. 2d.

Total sale price and total annuity.

This estate was purchased on 14th August, 1895, and sold to the tenants on 24th March, 1902. As in the case of Clare Island, during the greater part of this interval, all the men and boys, and several of the women on the estate who were able to work, were constantly employed, except when they were engaged at the cropping of their land or saving of sea-weed for kelp.

Period on hands and employment.

Sixty-three holdings were sold, the Poor-law Valuation of which was only £225, or an average of about £3 11s. Very few of these holdings can be regarded as economic, but they are nearer to this standard than the figures suggest, for the reason that 37 tenants have holdings on Finish and Mason Islands, where they supplement their resources from the land by the sale of kelp, as well as being able to obtain some fish for food.

Uneconomic holdings made fairly economic by fishing industry.

None of the tenants on this estate are migratory labourers.

Tenants not migratory labourers.

ESTATES PURCHASED.—CLASS II. AND CLASS III.

On the 15th August, 1896, another Land Act was passed, under Part IV. of which the Board could obtain advances of Land Stock from the Land Commission for the purchase of estates in like manner as if the Board were a tenant purchasing his holding under the Land Purchase Acts.

Act of 1896. Advances of Guaranteed Land Stock and Decadal reductions.

This relieved the Board from finding money for such purchases from their own funds, and they anticipated they would be immediately able to acquire several estates suitable for their purposes.

- Viz. :—
- (a.) Estates containing large areas of untenanted land.
 - (b.) Estates in congested districts comprised mainly of uneconomic holdings needing re-arrangement, or that could be enlarged by the addition of untenanted land upon or adjacent to the estate; or considerably improved by drainage, road-making, or distribution of turtary in cases where such improvement works could not be effectually carried out after sale of the holdings to the tenants.

Class of estates the Board desired to purchase.

The Board desired to get the worst class of tenanted estates which could not be sold without special treatment, and at the same time untenanted lands to enable them to relieve the congestion on the poor tenanted estates.

The attention of the Government was called to Section 43 (5) of this Act, under which no tenant on the Board's estates could get an advance from the Land Commission to purchase a "small holding," that is, a holding of a saleable value of less than £10. This was repealed by the Act of 1899, as it rendered it impossible for the Board to sell more than a small number of the holdings on their estates.

Contrary to their expectations, the Board failed to purchase any estate in 1896, and only one small and very poor estate (Tammam) in 1897.

Failure to purchase estates.

They were anxious to acquire untenanted areas adjacent to congested tenanted estates before purchasing the latter, but they were offered very little untenanted land, and the price asked was considered excessive.

Unattractive land.

Having frequently considered their difficulty in acquiring untenanted land at a reasonable price, they agreed in 1898 to purchase two tracts of untenanted land in the neighbourhood of Claremorris and Castlebar, viz., Ballymacraugh (Lord Lonsdale's Estate) and Knockmankill (two grass farms held by tenant-purchasers). They paid for them prices in excess of their estimated fair value in the hope that other tracts of untenanted land in these districts might be offered to them, and that if a considerable area were offered they might be able to acquire it at prices that would not be excessive on the average. Their anticipations, however, in this respect were not fulfilled.

Purchase of some untenanted land at high prices to induce owners to sell.

Small landholders adjacent to untenanted land accepted protest against giving right of purchase to "strangers" before their needs are supplied.

Estate not inspected or offers made if previous was brought to bear on owner to sell.

Extract from Board's Seventh Report, as to purchase of estates where protest existed.

Suspension of 40th Section on estates offered for by Board.

Failure to get sufficient untenanted land.

Difficulties of striping.

Migrant must have clear legal title to old holdings.

Investigation of title.

Difficulty of tenant to prove title.

Difficulties represented to Government.

Compulsory power to resume occupation of holding where tenant refused striping.

Some local trouble arose in the neighbourhood of Ballymoeagh and Knockanakil, which were situated in non-congested districts, when the small landholders adjoining these lands were informed that the Board could not enlarge their holdings because they were not situated in a congested district.

About this time agitation sprung up in the neighbourhood of several estates with the apparent object of bringing pressure on the owners to sell to the Board.

The Board referred to this matter in their Report for period ending 31st March, 1898, in the following terms:—

"But we hope it will be clearly understood that any attempt to bring undue or unfair pressure to bear on landlords or tenants in order to induce them to sell their properties, will only defeat its own object by deterring the Board from undertaking the purchase of any land where such practices are resorted to."

Although the Board were not being offered much untenanted land, a number of gross-farms were being sold in the Land Judge's Court to Court tenants, under the 40th Section of the Act of 1896, and on the 1st August, 1898, another Congested Districts Board Act was passed, under which the 40th Section was suspended on estates for which the Congested Districts Board signified their intention of making an offer, until the Judge had refused the Board's offer.

Although the Board fully availed themselves of their powers under this Act in several cases from the year 1898 to the passing of the Land Act of 1903, they acquired only a comparatively small area of untenanted land, having regard to the number of vacant holdings on the estates, which they purchased during this time.

(5.) As already stated, the Board had only purchased three estates, namely, French, Clure Island, and Leenard, up to the 31st March, 1897. In dealing with these estates no exceptional difficulties were experienced in the striping of the land and getting the tenants to accept the new holdings. The occupiers were merely required to sign undertakings to surrender their present holdings, and accept in exchange others of not less value. As might have been expected, a few persons on each of the estates expressed their dissatisfaction at the new holdings offered, but, with one exception, they all accepted them. Fortunately, in this solitary case it was possible to leave the tenant in undisturbed possession of his old holding without seriously affecting the proposed re-arrangements with the adjacent tenants.

When, however, after dealing with these three estates the Board got possession of larger estates, such as the Port Royal, purchased in 1898, and the Dillon, purchased in 1899, numerous difficulties presented themselves in connection with the striping and consolidation of holdings and apportionment of tithary. It was soon found that the simple arrangement carried out on the first estates purchased, of getting the tenants to sign undertakings to surrender their present holdings and accept new holdings of equivalent value in exchange thereof, would not work. In many of these cases the tenant who had signed such undertaking subsequently refused to carry it out, and when the Board considered the question of enforcing the agreement, they were advised that in many cases the undertakings were valueless, chiefly for the following reason.

In order that the undertaking would be legally enforceable, the occupier who signed it should have good legal title to the holding. This at once imposed the necessity of investigating the title of each tenant to satisfy the Board's legal advisers that the tenant was legally competent to surrender the holding he occupied, and that specific performance could be enforced by process of law, if necessary.

When this matter was further looked into, it was found that a great many of the occupiers of such holdings as the Board were dealing with could not deduce title from a legal representative, the holdings passing sometimes for generations from one member of a family to another, and frequently being sold without any legal transfer, the parties in all such cases being satisfied by getting the landlord or the agent to change the name of the tenant in the rental.

Again, in townlands where the land was held in severalty, or in a large number of detached parts, it sometimes happened that one tenant, who might have his land in twenty or more places, declined to agree to the striping. He blocked the whole work.

When a tenant sold his holding to the Board for cash, or surrendered his holding and migrated to another, if he were unable to deduce title from a legal representative, a new holding, comprising the whole or parts of the holdings so surrendered or conveyed to the Board, could not be sold with a clear title.

The Congested Districts Board frequently brought these difficulties under the notice of the Government, pointing out that unless the law regulating the legal transfer of land was amended, it would not be possible to freely amalgamate or consolidate holdings, as it was contemplated the Board were to do, under Section 57 of the Act of 1891.

They also asked that they should have power to compulsorily resume occupation of a holding in the occupation of a tenant who refused to permit striping, and thus prevented the re-arrangement of a townland (see Section 1, Act 1901).

To meet the difficulty relating to transfer of equities, Sub-section 6 of Section 1 of Act of 1901 was passed, providing for the transfer of all equities attached to an old holding to the new holding given in exchange thereof, but the procedure through the County Court for having this arrangement carried out was considered to be so cumbersome and impracticable by the Board's legal advisers that it has never been attempted.

Transfer of equities.

Immediately after Mr. Wynham's appointment as Chief Secretary, he visited Knockraugh and other estates on which difficulties had arisen, and subsequently got legislation passed which greatly facilitated the Board's operations.

To get over the difficulty of voluntary striping, an Act was passed on the 17th day of August, 1901, which provided that, on the Board receiving a memorial from not less than three-fourths of the tenants of an estate, petitioning to determine the tenancy of a tenant who declined to agree to the proposed striping, the Board could determine such tenancy, subject to such conditions as therein provided as to giving him a holding of equivalent value on some neighbouring estate, &c.

Act providing for compulsory striping.

When this Act was passed, it was immediately pointed out to the Government that it was unworkable in consequence of the condition that three-fourths of the tenants of an estate should sign the memorial, and that it ought to have been three-fourths of the tenants of a townland, or three-fourths of the tenants affected by the proposed arrangement, and a case was put that if a tenant on the Dillon Estate, on which there were 4,300 tenants, refused to accept the proposed striping, it would be necessary for over three thousand of the tenants to sign the memorial, which they would never do, as only very few of them would be interested in the matter, and many of them may never have even heard of the townland on which the dispute existed.

Failure of Act of August 17th, 1901.

The Act of 1901 was amended in the Land Act of 1903 by Section 82; but no change was made, or has been made, up to the present to facilitate the transfer of the equities from a holding which a tenant surrenders or conveys to the Board to a new holding, and consequently the Board have been put to the expense and delay of undertaking the investigation of title of each occupier who surrenders his holding to the Board, so that those who get a new holding, comprising portions of the holding previously occupied by other tenants, would get a good legal title in it. To do this it has been found necessary in some cases to investigate the title of the occupier for a period extending back thirty years, and in a great many cases to compel the occupier to take out administration and do other things involving expense and delay. It may be mentioned that the clearing of title to some tenanted lands has taken five years to complete.

Act of 17th August, 1901, amended by Land Act, 1903.
No amendment in law regarding transfer of title in holdings.

In a few cases it has been found impossible to obtain good title, and the procedure has very seriously delayed the Board's work in connection with the re-arrangement of estates.

The Board's solicitor was asked to make suggestions for overcoming these difficulties, and has done so in Memorandum I laid in; but as I understand he is to give evidence, I think it best he should give any further explanation of the exact nature of the legal difficulties referred to, and how he proposes to get over them.

Memo by Board's Solicitor.

I can hand in a list of several of the cases, if the Commission so desire, showing the length of time taken in clearing title of several of the holdings and the expense involved.

A further difficulty in connection with the amalgamation and enlargement of holdings has also been experienced. That is, in cases where the holdings proposed to be enlarged are not on the Board's estate, or are in the occupation of ordinary tenants or of tenant-purchasers.

Further difficulties.

The Act of 1891 (section 31) empowers the Board to amalgamate and enlarge small holdings, and evidently contemplated that the Board would undertake this duty in relation to all classes of small holdings, whether in the occupation of tenant-purchasers, tenants of estates purchased by them, or tenants not on estates purchased by them.

Amalgamation of small holdings (Act of 1891, Section 31).

(a.) Accordingly, when the Board purchased the Higgins Estate, Co. Mayo, they formed some new holdings upon it, upon which they built houses, and then invited applications from landholders in the adjacent congested districts for these new holdings, on condition that they surrendered the holdings they were in possession of. Tenants of holdings, on the following adjacent estates were selected:—Two from Lady Larpin's estate, two from Mr. Rutledge's estate, and one from Church estate, one from Burke's estate, and one from Hudson.

Higgins Estate, and first attempts at amalgamation.
Selection of migrants.

The holdings of the intending migrants were carefully surveyed, and a scheme drawn up showing how it was proposed to dispose of each vacated holding. The holdings on the estates from which the migrants proposed to move were held in many detached parts, and it was proposed to join the detached parts to the adjacent holdings so as to consolidate the latter, instead of giving each of the vacated holdings, with its scattered plots, to one of the tenants whose holdings adjoined some of these plots.

Disposal of migrants' old holdings.

These proposals were submitted to the landlord or his authorized agent, and approved, provided that the rents payable out of the vacated holdings would be secured to the landlord in the partitioning of these holdings, and that all the expense incurred would be defrayed by the Board. These conditions were agreed to by the Board, but when they endeavoured to carry out the arrangement the trouble about clearing title to the tenants' land arose; and further, the difficulty presented itself of amalgamating these parcels of land with existing holdings that were held under

Approval by landlord of scheme for disposal of old holdings.

- Determining of judicial rents.** judicial rents, the lawyers being of opinion that a judicial tenure on an encumbered estate could not be determined without the consent of all the mortgagees. That is to say, suppose a tenant had a judicial rent of £3 fixed on a holding, and it was proposed to give £3 worth of the vacated holding adjacent on same estate to him, the procedure proposed to be adopted was to get him to sign a surrender of his judicial tenancy, and enter into a new tenancy agreement for the rent of £5.
- Mr. John Garvey's memorandum.** The Solicitor (Mr. John Garvey of Ballina) for one of these landlords, who was most anxious to further the Board's operations in the matter, believing it would benefit the estate of his client, found insuperable difficulties in carrying out the arrangement in a legal manner.
- Maps and particulars.** I submit maps and detailed particulars of these cases; they were the first that arose, and are typical of many such cases that have since arisen.
- Higgins Estate, Clare section.** Another section of this (Higgins) estate, which was situate near the town of Claremorris, adjoined a number of tenant-purchasers' holdings that were extremely small. The annuities varied from fifteen shillings to about £5. It was proposed to migrate two of these tenant purchasers who had their holdings in scattered parts, and to add those plots to the several holdings they adjoined so as to consolidate them and bring them into more regular shape.
- Application to Land Commission to apportion annuities.** Maps showing the proposed scheme for the disposal of the plots in this way were submitted to the Land Commission, who were requested to apportion the annuities of the several parcels of the vacated holdings, and to amalgamate each parcel with the holding adjoining it, as shown on the maps and schedules submitted.
- Land Commission could not amalgamate annuities as required in these cases.** After a great deal of delay and correspondence the Land Commission apportioned the annuities on each parcel, but stated that they could not amalgamate the apportioned annuity of each parcel with the holding to which it was proposed to add it, unless such annuity happened to commence from exactly the same gale day as the annuity of the holding to which it was proposed to add the parcel. The result was that the parcels had to be sold subject to the apportioned annuities without amalgamating them with the holdings to which it was proposed to add them, and consequently each of the parcels became separate holdings, and the net result of the Board's operations in this transaction was to increase the number of small holdings instead of reducing them.
- Redemption of mortgages.** The Board had each difficulty, and incurred so much expense in carrying through these attempted amalgamations, that they have not since then attempted the amalgamations of small holdings except those sold under the Land Purchase Acts; and where they have attempted the amalgamation of the latter, as on the Cusny, Kilsconey and other estates, they have been in most cases obliged to redeem the purchase money advanced by the Land Commission on the holdings, get the title clear, and re-sell the holdings as they would the portions of an ordinary estate.
- Effect of delay.** The delay and expense of this procedure makes it impracticable for general adoption.
- Turbary.** There is urgent need for the amendment of the law so as to make it an easy matter for the Congested Districts Board and Rates Commissioners to enlarge or consolidate small holdings, irrespective of whether the occupier is a tenant or a tenant purchaser.
- Proximity of turbary of importance to tenant without a house or dooley.** In the West of Ireland particularly, disputes about turbary have been the cause of a great deal of litigation and bad feeling amongst small occupiers of land.
- (d) It is of great importance to small headholders who have no turbary upon their holdings, and who have no conveyance to bring it from a distance, to have turbary secured to them in the most convenient places obtainable.
- On many estates like the Dillon, with its 4,500 tenants, satisfactory allotment of the turbary or fuel supply was a matter of first importance to the great majority of the people, for about two-thirds of them got their turf on tracks of bog, mainly included within the ambit of the holdings of the remaining one-third. The Board, therefore, decided that no pains should be spared to effect a fair distribution of the turbary on this estate and as on all other poor estates with which they were dealing, but to illustrate the difficulties common to all those estates, I confine myself to a history of the difficulties that arose in connection with the allotment of turbary on the Dillon Estate.
- Procedure adopted in distribution of turbary on the Dillon estate.** As already stated, most of the turbary was within the ambit of new tenant's holdings, and under the old estate management, tenants who had not turf upon their holdings were pointed out a turf bank from time to time on the nearest suitable bog. Several of the tenants who had surplus turbary on their holdings had judgied rents fixed, subject to the condition that the landlord could put on the bog without compensation as many tenants as he thought proper to get turf. Where the rents were not fixed with this condition, the agent arranged that the person provided with bog on a holding should pay the tenant a small sum for surface trespass, from one shilling to three shillings a year, rarely more.
- Preparation of maps showing bogs.** The first thing done by me in connection with the apportionment of the turbary was to have careful maps prepared showing the bogs available. Next I had to settle with the tenant the portion of the bog he desired to retain for his own use, and keep the boundary of the portion so selected.

Then to parcel into turlary plots, varying according to circumstances, from a rood to a couple of acres, the remaining bog, and to provide access to each plot by defining on the ground the necessary roadways or passages.

I explained to the tenants that the Board could not pay them any money compensation for the surface trespass committed by the persons put to cut turf on their holdings, but that they would be sold their holdings at a reduced price in consideration of the inconvenience arising from the exercise of turlary rights on holding by other persons.

I had further to provide for roadways from the tracts of bogs to the public roads, and in many cases to have them fenced, and the compensation for the land taken up by such roadway settled with the tenants.

In the distribution of these bogs it was necessary that each tenant would get some of the best turlary available as convenient to his house as possible for an immediate supply, and a further supply for future use in the next most convenient place, which was the only method of distribution acceptable to the general body of the tenants.

To carry these arrangements through it became necessary to lay out over 7,000 bog plots for the 4,300 tenants, each plot being defined on ground with a passage and means of access to it and all carefully surveyed and mapped.

The Commission will understand what a great deal of time and labour this involved, when they bear in mind that all the arrangements made had to be agreed to by the tenants interested, and secured by legal contracts.

Before we had proceeded far with the allotment of these bogs, legal difficulties arose. A tenant disputed the right of the Board to put in tenants to cut turf on the bog included in his holding; and another tenant refused to allow a road to be made through his holding to a bog. These cases were brought before the County Court Judge, who held that as the tenant had not a judicial rent fixed on his holding, the Board had no right under Section 5, Sub-section 5 of the Act of 1881 to enter upon the holding for the purpose of giving bog to other tenants, or for making a road.

As the greater number of tenants on the Dillon Estate had their rents fixed out of Court, and, were therefore not judicial tenants, I was not able to continue satisfactorily the distribution of the bogs until the Congested Districts Board Act of the 17th August, 1901, was passed, under which the Board were empowered under Section 2 to enter any holding not subject to a statutory tenancy for the purpose of allotment of turlary or enforcing other rights referred to in Sub-section 5 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881.

After the passing of this Act we were able to complete the apportionment of bogs on the Dillon Estate, and to make roads where required whether over judicial or non-judicial holdings on payment of reasonable compensation to the tenant.

These difficulties very seriously delayed the work of the Board.

On each of the sale agreements the plots where the tenant was authorised to exercise turlary rights were set out and a reference to map given; but after the passing of the Act of 1903 the Land Commission declined to accept the sale agreements with such rights specified.

This ruling further seriously delayed the sale of the remnants of the estate; for it then became necessary before the sale to a tenant of a holding on which other tenants got turlary rights or rights of way, to have a turlary or right of way deed executed by him, so that such rights would be secured before the sale agreement was signed, the holdings being sold under the latter instrument, subject to such covenants and rights of way as then existed. The rights created under the turlary deed were thereby legally existing before the tenant signed his sale agreement.

This procedure has been continued on all the Board's estates up to the present, and involves a great deal of trouble and time, and a good deal of expense in connection with the sale of the holdings.

All turlary bogs on holdings to be sold under the Purchase Acts and not allotted before sale should be reserved to the Land Commission on sale of the holdings in the same manner as mineral rights, so that the Land Commission would have power at any time to allot surplus turlary on a holding purchased to a landholder requiring it on the latter paying reasonable compensation.

(c) On the estates purchased before the passing of the Land Act, 1903, there were 21,591 acres of unenclosed land having an estimated fair annual value of £5,258. Of this 12,429 acres were bog and mountain having an estimated fair annual value of £443. Of the total, 14,793 acres were utilised for the enlargement of holdings on the estates, and 6,726 acres for 250 migrants who were settled on new holdings, particulars of which are included in the Returns appearing in the Board's Fourteenth and Fifteenth Annual Reports.

The area of the migrants' old holdings varied from 1A. 0s. 30s. to 36 acres. They averaged about 17 acres of poor land. Of these holdings 141 were at rents of £4 and under; 28 over £4 and not exceeding £5, and 89 were over £5. The rents varied from 15s. to £14 12s., and the average rent was £3 10s.

Parcelling out of turlary plots, and defining passages on ground.

Purchase price of holdings with surplus turlary reduced in consideration of turlary given to other tenants.

Roadway to bog and fencing of same.

Immediate supply for future use.

Seven thousand bog plots laid out.

Difficulties.

Legal decision. Board had no power to put tenant to cut turf on holding which was non-judicial.

Act of 17th August, 1901, empowering Board to put tenants to cut turf on non-judicial holdings.

Sale agreements setting out rights of turlary.

Refusal of Land Commission to accept sale agreements with turlary or other rights specified.

Reservation of bogs to Land Commission.

Migrants.

Old holdings.

New holdings.

The area of the 350 new holdings created before passing of 1903 Act varies from 11a. 1a. 34r. to 33 acres, and they average about 27 acres. Only 59 of them are under 20 acres. The rents vary from £3 to £24, and average £14 6s., and only 60 holdings have rents of less than £10.

Of these, 50 holdings, with a rental of £658, were sold under the 1895 Act (4% annuity) for the sum of £11,912, the annuities amounting to £476; and the remaining 300 holdings, with a rental of £3,520, were sold under the Act of 1903 for the sum of £29,170, with annuities at 3½ per cent., amounting to £3,248. The average rent of each holding sold under the Act of 1903 was £14 12s., and the average annuity £11 5s.

These figures show that the migrants came from very small holdings, and that the Board so far have not induced many of the larger landholders within the congested areas to exchange their holdings for larger or better holdings in the non-congested districts. I should, however, point out that the rents on the tenanted estates purchased by the Board are, as a rule, very small. Take the Dillen Estate with a rental of £20,000. There were only fifty-seven tenants paying rents of £20 and upwards, and one hundred and ninety-seven tenants paying rents of £10 and under £20. It cannot, however, be said that there is a disposition among the more successful or more comfortable landholders in the congested districts to leave their present holdings for better ones. Migration is a new scheme, and as landholders have no experience of the success attending it, those who are fairly comfortable in their present circumstances, but who, as a rule, have no idle agency are not keen to change to a better holding. If, however, the migrants who have been placed on new holdings succeed, the disinclination of tenants to leave their present holdings for better ones will, I have no doubt, disappear.

*Migration on Port
Royal Estate.
Derrane townland.*

There was a striking example of this in the case of the Port Royal Estate, on which a townland called Derrane, situate on the side of the Puckry Mountains was occupied by eighteen tenants, who held their land in 142 detached parts, at rents amounting to £58 14s. 6d. As it was not possible to stripe or re-arrange this townland without getting some of the tenants out of it, I called them together and stated that I would give the preference of three of the new holdings. I had laid out on the Port Royal Demesne, about four miles away, to three of them who would migrate. These holdings were lighted, and I told the tenants the rent, and purchase price they would be charged, and informed them that dwellings and out-offices would be erected on each holding, similar to the house just then completed on one of the stripes. I gave them a week to consider the proposal, but could not get one of them to leave.

Seah townland.

I then approached the tenants on the next worst townland on the estate, the townland of Seah, on which there were nineteen tenants with their holdings in 127 detached parts, and rental £74 10s. 6d. After considering the matter for some days, two informed me that they would risk the change, as they could not be worse off than they were, and had very little to lose.

Cloone townland.

I next went to Cloone townland, on which there were fourteen tenants with their land held in 101 detached parts, and rental £49 9s., but only one of the tenants would volunteer to migrate, and he stated he would not think of doing so only he believed that his house was haunted, and as he had been very unlucky of late, he would risk the change. He was a young man, about thirty-five years of age, with three or four young children, and a delicate wife. Neither of the two latter townlands was more than three miles from the demesne lands.

Kilbarron townland.

I next proceeded to interview the tenants in the townland of Kilbarron, in which thirteen tenants, at rents amounting to £154 10s., held their lands in ninety-two detached parts. After some persuasion two of these tenants volunteered to migrate to the demesne lands, which happened to adjoin portion of their holdings.

All this appeared very discouraging, and I had to list these persons as migrants for nice holdings on the demesne. The rents of their old and new holdings are as follows:—

Tenant.	Rent of old Holding	New Holding	
		Rent	Annuity at 4 %.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Michael Paffin, ...	9 8 5	10 18 7	7 8 10
Michael Higgins, ...	0 5 0	11 19 0	7 10 4
Catherine Prudgert, ...	1 10 0	11 5 0	7 7 2
John Walsh, ...	2 5 5	12 5 0	8 0 0
Michael Casey, ...	2 10 9	12 15 0	8 11 2
Thomas Stanton, ...	2 0 0	12 5 0	8 12 8
Pat Paffin, ...	2 10 0	12 10 0	8 4 0
Michael Lally, ..	2 15 0	14 3 0	9 6 4

*Four class of Migrants
had to be selected.*

Of these there were only two men that I would have considered suitable to give holdings to under ordinary circumstances, but the fact was if we could not move some of the people from the townlands named, it would have been impossible to stripe them, and as those mentioned were the only persons willing to go, I simply had to take them. Subsequently a second man from Cloonee agreed to go.

Within a year these men were settled in their new holdings, and the striping proceeded in the townlands they left. They have all succeeded beyond their expectations, and have paid their annuities with punctuality.

About two years after they were settled down and had the reputation of doing well, three of the tenants from the townland of Derrassa, to whom I had at first offered new holdings in the demesne and who would not go, begged of me to give them holdings twelve miles away near the town of Castlebar on land that had been acquired in the interval, and informed me at the same time what a great mistake they found they had made in not taking the holdings I had offered them in Port Royal near their old homes, and which were, in their opinion, better than the ones they could then get near the town of Castlebar. As nothing had been done with Derrassa in the meantime, it being impossible to stripe it unless some tenants moved, I informed these people that I would provide them with new holdings near Castlebar, and after some time two of them moved there and are doing very well in their new homes. The rents of their old and new holdings are as follows:—

Tenant.	Rent of old Holding.	New Holdings.	
		Rent.	Annuit.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
John Lally,	6 0 0	24 1 9	17 1 11
Michael Stannan, ...	4 5 0	27 1 6	18 19 7

Since they left, four others from the same neighborhood have migrated to these lands near Castlebar and other lands adjacent thereto (Binnam).

Further migration inland.

I give this rather long history of these individual cases in support of my view that if suitable lands can be obtained landholders from the congested districts will be gradually got to migrate to them, and the objection to leave their present homes will soon disappear if those who migrate succeed in their new homes.

With few exceptions, the migrants whom the Board have settled in their new holdings were very poor, and at least three-fourths of them would not be selected if there were a choice of applicants, amongst whom would be men of capital and energy, and with strong help.

Notwithstanding all these disadvantages the 229 migrants, with few exceptions, appear to be getting on well, and not one of them has failed to pay the annuity due to the Land Commission up to the present.

No migrant a defaulting annuitant.

One of the migrants to the lands near Castlebar came from Clure Island, and several of the others distances from 12 to 16 miles. They are settled there this five or six years and are doing well. When they came there they were welcomed by their neighbours, or at any rate, no hostility was shown to them, but since the passing of the Act of 1903, which provides that the grass areas acquired by the Estates Commissioners can be utilised for migration, or enlargement of holdings irrespective of whether they are in a congested or non congested district, and that holdings can also be provided thereon for the sons of tenants, the feeling has become strong in the neighbourhood of these grass areas that no "strangers" should be permitted to occupy them, or that before holdings be offered to persons from a distance the requirements of all the neighbouring landholders and their sons should be supplied.

Local feeling against persons from a distance getting holdings.

There are few, if any, grass areas in Mayo which could not be taken up by persons from the parish in which they are situated, if after enlarging small holdings the balance be given to the sons of tenants and persons who have no land. If the available lands are to be given to sons of tenants, and other landless persons within the counties containing congested districts, migrants from the congested areas will have little or no land to get unless they move to counties more inland, which is very improbable.

Unsettled grass areas (see 72).

While it appears very desirable to place on land which needs cultivation, young men who are willing to work it and thus give them an opportunity of settling in their own country instead of emigrating, I am of opinion that the heads of families who are already settled on holdings too small to enable them to derive a decent living therefrom, have a prior claim to young men who have no families dependent upon them.

Prior claim of migrants.

The mere striping or redistribution of tenanted land, where the re-arranged holdings are still uneconomic, is not of itself a satisfactory result; and in order to substantially improve the condition of such landholders, their holdings should be enlarged. This cannot be done as a rule, owing to the absence of adjacent untenanted land unless some of the tenants can be migrated.

Striping must be accompanied by enlargement of small holdings to substantially improve condition of people.

The migration of tenants of the class found on the poorest estates, under conditions likely to prove successful, is a most difficult problem; and is, in fact, impracticable to carry out on a large scale in a short time.

Migration must be carried out gradually.

Tenants on small holdings at rents of £2 to £4, as they usually run to, are not at all disposed to take £15 or £20 worth of land. Not five per cent. would be in a position or be willing to build a new house, and fence such a holding at a distance of ten or twelve miles from their homes. It must be borne in mind that while the weeks of fencing and building on the new holding are proceeding the tenant has at intervals to attend to the cropping of his land.

Small tenants unwilling to migrate to large holding at a distance, fence and stripe it, and erect buildings thereon.

Only experience of migration the country has.

The only experience in migration which the country has had is that which the Board carried out, and up to the present it has not been possible to get a landholder to leave his present holding, and migrate to a new one at a distance, with the condition that he was to fence it himself, and erect the necessary buildings. In this connection, however, it must not be forgotten that the Board's selection of migrants is confined to the poorest landholders in Ireland.

Salvage persons willing to accept holdings and fence same and erect buildings.

If the Board's function were to place on these grass lands sons of salvage tenants from any part of the country, and, say, returned emigrants, these persons would gladly take holdings of grass land at cost price, and fence and put up buildings themselves.

Scheme by which gradual migration could be carried out.

The experience of the Board's operations in connection with migration is, I think, sufficient to prove that the poor class of tenants they are dealing with cannot be radically improved in a year or two, by migration, striping, and the execution of the necessary improvement works, such as drainage, fencing, and building. Even if the Board had available near a large congested estate a sufficient area of grass land to transfer as many tenants from the tenanted lands as would provide economic holdings for those remaining, it would not be possible to get a sufficient number of them to migrate in the course of a few years. Such a change can only be effected gradually, and in this connection I now repeat a suggestion made some time ago that the Board should be placed in a position to acquire all suitable grass land within ten or twelve miles of the congested areas, and give the small landholders immediate access to them for the grazing of their young stock, and have a scheme in operation under which landholders from the congested areas, would have the option, year after year, to migrate to holdings on the grass areas on reasonable terms, and the land vacated by them added to the adjacent small holdings.

Disposal of land if migrants failed.

If migrants do not in the course of some years take up these grass lands they could be sold in large parcels to the landholders of groups of townland (or their trustees) who would use them as co-grazing, or manage them on co-operative lines.

Necessity for migration from Dillon, De Freyne, and similar estates.

This scheme would work satisfactorily in parts of Mayo and Roscommon, for Dillon, De Freyne, and other estates. Take, for example, the Dillon Estate, with its 4,300 tenants and a Poor Law Valuation of £30,000 a year. The Board's operations are practically closed on this estate, and a great deal of improvement effected. Yet 3,390 holdings (about three-fourths of entire) are under £5 Poor Law Valuation.

Loss to small landholders if grazing lands adjacent are not reserved for them, but given to some of tenants and others.

If sufficiently large areas of these grass lands were secured at a price which would enable the smaller tenants on these and neighbouring estates to have summer grazing for their stock at a fair price, it would become part of their farm management to rear as many young cattle as they possibly could on their home farms up to an age when they would be strong enough to send them to the grass farm, and selling the surplus stock every November, they would keep for the winter on the home farm all the stock that they had feeding for. The fact of this grass area being eight or ten miles from their homes would not be such a serious inconvenience as may appear at first sight. It must also be borne in mind that it has been the practice for at least twenty-five years for the small landholders of these districts to send a beast or two to a grazing farm from May to November. They will be deprived of this advantage if these grass farms are largely planted with sons of tenants, or returned Americans.

Some of the grass lands unsuitable for tillage.

The young stock raised by these people on their present poor holdings are usually unsaleable at May, and a great improvement would result from feeding them for the summer half-year on good land.

Some of these grass farms are rich grazing lands, with soil of a strong adhesive character not well adapted for tillage. Turf too cannot be provided convenient to many of them, and if the lands be cut up into holdings many of them will not have a good supply of water.

Number of small farmers' grazing stock now on Board's farms.

On the lands in the Board's hands, there are at present grazing 4,970 cattle, and 955 sheep, belonging to small farmers mostly from congested districts.

Very little untenanted land; that is, land held under temporary or agreement lettings.

(c) In the congested districts counties there is very little untenanted land, that is, land held under temporary or agreement lettings. Any grass farm on which the occupier does not reside is usually called "untenanted" land.

Maximum untenanted land available.

In order to convey to the Commission an approximate idea of the maximum amount of grass lands which could under any circumstances be considered available for migration and enlargement of holdings, I have had returns prepared which I hand in showing all non-residential tenements or holdings of £35 Poor Law Valuation and upwards within the counties containing congested districts. These include all tenements or separate holdings irrespective of the tenure of the occupier, who may be landlord, tenant-purchaser, judicial tenant, yearly tenant, leasee, or grazing tenant. The areas and valuations of these lands situate respectively in the congested and non-congested districts of each county are given separately.

The area of non-residential tenements in the congested districts of County Mayo is 75,275 acres, and the Poor Law Valuation is £7,457. Of this 54,377 acres is mountain grazing and bog land, with a Poor Law Valuation of £1,256, leaving, of agricultural land, an area of 20,898 acres, with a Poor Law Valuation of £6,201.

Untenanted land in congested districts in County Mayo.

These figures show what a very small proportion of such ¹land there is within the congested districts in this poor county, and prove that if congestion is to be relieved by migration or enlargement of holdings that the land for this purpose must be sought outside the congested area.

The area of the non-residential tenements in the non-congested districts of Mayo is 81,396, the Poor Law Valuation £33,315. Of this 11,080 acres is mountain and bog with a Poor Law Valuation of £713, leaving 70,316 acres of agricultural land with a Poor Law Valuation of £32,602.

In Roscommon the total area of such non-residential grazing land in the congested districts is 3,921 acres, with a Poor Law Valuation of £1,369; and in the non-congested districts 98,725 acres, with a Poor Law Valuation of £54,329, the total being 102,646 acres, all agricultural land, with a Poor Law Valuation of £56,698.

Untenanted land in County Roscommon.

I submit maps of the Counties Mayo and Roscommon, showing in green colour all non-residential tenements of £25 valuation and upwards.

Maps of Mayo and Roscommon showing untenanted lands available.

The map shows that a considerable portion of the congested area of East Mayo is not too remote from the grass areas of Roscommon, to look to the latter for the relief of congestion either by migration of a considerable number of the inhabitants to these open areas, or to provide them with grazing for their young stock on the good grass lands which, as already explained, would enable them to reserve during the summer the greater part of their small holdings for providing fodder for the winter keep of their stock, thus enabling them to feed more stock on their holdings in winter, and have more manure with which to improve their land and raise better crops than they can now do.

Before deciding what portion of this land might be taken up, it would be necessary to hold an investigation locally and hear all parties having claims on the land, and how it was used by the occupiers of each tenement.

I have not been able to prepare similar maps for the other counties containing congested districts in the time available, but the returns handed in give sufficient information relating to these non-residential tenements to form a general opinion.

From these returns it appears that outside Mayo, Roscommon, Galway, and Sligo, there is little land which can be considered available for the relief of congestion in the congested districts counties.

Outside the counties of Connacht the acquisition of grass land, commonly called untenanted land, cannot be looked to as a means of relieving congestion to an appreciable extent.

When considering the amount of land that might be utilized for the relief of congestion in the counties in Connacht, I have to point out that portions of these congested districts are so remote from the grass areas that in my opinion the people would not migrate in any considerable numbers, even if the land were available. This remark applies specially to the population along the sea coast, many of whom pursue the industry of fishing with more or less success, and who would not be suitable migrants. In some places, like parts of the coast of Kerry and Donegal, these people derive considerable earnings from fishing, and over a considerable extent of the sea coast where fishing is not carried on as an industry, the people get more or less fish for food, which is a great help to them. They also get seaweed for manure, and for these reasons maritime landholders, with a low valuation of, say, £5 or less, can, as a rule, make a much better living without leaving home than landholders of the same valuation in the inland congested districts.

On the map which I produce the maritime congested districts are shown by a black edging along the inland boundary of all townlands that abut upon or are near the sea. The population of this area marked A is 171,183 (about one-third of the congested districts), and the Poor Law Valuation is £168,740 or 19s. 9d. per head of the population.

Maritime congested districts as shown on map submitted.

These people would not migrate, and they should be encouraged to depend upon the pursuit of fishing as an industry to supplement their earnings from the land. Every effort should be made by the Board to facilitate them in developing the fishing industry.

How they are to be improved.

Landholders who do not live on the townlands abutting on the sea are rarely fishermen, as they would be too far from their boats, but for some miles from the sea they usually have the advantage of being able to obtain seaweed at a reasonable price for manure.

Congested areas situate between the maritime townlands and the electoral divisions bordering on the non-congested areas, are, as a rule, very poor, except in cases where they have access to fairly good ranges of mountain grazing. Very few of these people would migrate to better lands inland, and the best means by which they can be assisted to improve their position is—

Firstly, by agricultural development; and

Secondly, through the establishment of suitable industries.

How they are to be improved.

Migration cannot be looked to as a practical means of relieving congestion in this area, marked B on the map.

Inland congested districts adjacent to grass areas, and how they can be improved.

If I am right in this view, the only portions of the congested districts to which migration and enlargement of holdings can be looked to as a possible means of relieving congestion is in those parts of the inland congested districts in Connacht, marked C, which are adjacent to the areas of non-residential grass lands.

I submit schedules for the counties of Mayo and Roscommon, which give the population of these inland congested districts, marked C, adjacent to the open areas.

Land required to bring Mayo holdings up to £10 average.

In Mayo, the population is 98,738, the Poor Law Valuation £104,100, showing an average of £1 1s. 9d. per head of the population. In order to supply this population with an amount of land that would raise the average rate per head to £3, equivalent to a £10 holding, it would be necessary to acquire land valued for £87,356.

The total area of non-residential grass lands in the entire of Mayo is 156,671, and the total valuation £40,972, which if it could be all secured, would only be sufficient to raise the rateable value to £1 10s. 4d. In my opinion it is not probable that more than one-half of it could be secured, and this would raise the valuation to only £1 6s., if no land outside County Mayo could be applied for the relief of congestion in that county. If only the non-residential lands within the congested districts were available, valued at £7,497, it would only raise the valuation per head of the congested districts to £1 3s. 4d.

Land required and available to bring Roscommon holdings up to £10 valuation.

In Roscommon the total area of the congested districts is 132,482 acres, total population 31,085, and valuation £41,176, equal to £1 6s. 6d. per head of the population. To raise the average standard of valuation per head to the equivalent of a £10 holding, or £2 per head of the population, would require land valued for £30,994. All the non-residential lands which I have mapped out in Roscommon comprise an area of 161,646 acres, with a Poor Law Valuation of £65,538. If from this the £30,994 worth of land necessary to raise the rate per head to £3 in the congested districts of this county were applied to that purpose, there would be available for relief of congestion in Mayo and any other congested districts county £44,544 worth of land. But, as in the case of Mayo, if only half of the total area could be acquired, the valuation per head of the population in the congested districts of Roscommon could still be brought to an average of £2 per head of the population, and there would be a surplus of £11,775 per annum available for relief of congestion outside the county.

Summary for Mayo and Roscommon.

Taking the two counties of Mayo and Roscommon together, the figures already given show, that to raise all the small holdings within the congested districts of these counties to a £10 standard (that is, equivalent to £2 per head of a population of 5 in a family), would require in Mayo £87,356 of land, and in Roscommon £30,994, that is for the two counties £108,350; and there is shown to be available in the two counties of Mayo and Roscommon £106,510, leaving a deficiency of £1,840 to bring the congested landholders in the entire of Roscommon, and that part of County Mayo adjacent to the open areas, to a £10 standard.

Qualifications to be adopted irrespective of whether they are in congested districts or outside to—

The information in the returns handed in points to the necessity of reserving the lands referred to for the benefit of occupiers who are already settled upon holdings of insufficient size or value to enable them to derive a fairly decent living therefrom.

Necessity for applying grass lands to enlarge existing holdings.

If something like this is not done, and done with the general assent of the country, these grass areas will be given over to young people, who may prove at least as successful farmers as those transferred from the congested districts, but the opportunity of relieving the latter by giving them access to more and better land may be lost for ever, and the problem of congestion will remain unsolved.

Opposition to reserving grass lands for migrants from congested districts.

In considering the practicability of these proposals it should be borne in mind that in many districts they would be opposed by persons of local influence in the parish in which the lands were situate. This opposition would be so strong in some districts that, unless the present feeling changes, no migrant would be likely to take a new holding outside his own parish.

Parochial view of the problem very pronounced.

If this, which may be described as the parochial view, be generally accepted, it practically puts an end to migration from the congested districts, for in very few parishes containing scheduled districts there are any considerable areas of non-residential grass lands.

Cost of settling migrants in new holding also covers cost of the benefits conferred on tenants who got portions of vacant holding as well as migrant settled on new holding.

Number of tenants benefited by each migrant removed.

This may appear high, but it should be borne in mind that this loss is not properly chargeable against the benefits conferred upon the migrants alone, for the removal of one migrant's family enabled the Board to confer substantial advantages on the persons whose holdings were enlarged by the addition of portions of the migrant's lands. When a migrant vacates a holding of considerable size, several people may thus be benefited. I would say, as far as the Board's transactions have gone, that at least four families have been benefited on an average by the removal of each migrant, so that in reviewing the cost of a single transaction and the benefits conferred, it may be taken that four to five families have had their condition substantially improved by the net loss of £87.

This loss will be greater in future transactions, as a higher price has been paid for estates, and they will be retained on lands for a shorter period, thus involving less profit from rents, &c.

Limitation of selection of migrants make cost of migration higher.

If there was a general desire to migrate, and that the Board had a number of applicants to select from, they would be able to settle a better class of migrant on the holding, and men who, with a free grant of, say, £50, could erect suitable buildings and fences on a new farm; but, as already explained, the Board had no opportunity of selection, and had to deal with the people who were willing to migrate. If the Board got the larger landholders to migrate the loss would be less than it has been, for when a holding value for £35 or upwards is taken, the greater part of the necessary outlay on the buildings can be charged to it without making the amount on the land too high. This cannot be done in case of small holdings, for the buildings which afford the necessary accommodation for a family who are settling on, say, £15 worth of land are practically good enough for a family who would settle on £25 or £30 worth.

Migration of large landholders.

James Gordon, a migrant.

Since the passing of the Land Act of 1903 the Board have effected exchanges with persons holding large farms adjacent to the non-congested districts, such as James Gordon, who surrendered two holdings, one on the De Freyne Estate, containing 57a. 0a. 30r., held at a rent of £24 7s., and another holding, of which he was tenant-purchaser, having an area of 106a. 1a. 18r., held at an annuity of £80. He migrated to Killooney House, near Tuam, in connection with which he got 165 acres.

James Brannick, a migrant.

John Ryan, a migrant.

James Brannick surrendered a farm of 181 acres near Clarenmorris, and accepted a farm near Hollymount, in a non-congested district, of 183 acres. John Ryan also accepted a farm near Hollymount of 112 acres, and surrendered a farm near Clarenmorris having an area of 201 acres.

Tobias Joyce, a migrant.

Tobias Joyce surrendered his interest in a co-tenancy of a mountain farm of over 3,000 acres near Leenane, and migrated to a farm near Tuam containing 181 acres.

I am prepared to submit maps giving particulars with reference to these and any other cases, if any member of the Commission desire to get further detailed information.

Land given as enlargement to small holdings.

In addition to the 8,101 acres above referred to given to migrants, 9,503 acres, with an annual value of £3,470, have been utilised for the enlargement of holdings on the Board's estates. 978 tenants got enlargements valued at £1 and upwards.

Sale of uneconomic holdings by Board.

The chief objection, and it is a very important one, which can be made against the result of the Board's operations in the treatment of their estates, is that a considerable number of the holdings they have sold to the tenants had not been raised to an economic standard. The Board appreciated the gravity of this, but were unable to meet it. They did all they could within their powers and the limits of their resources to improve and enlarge the holdings on the estates they purchased. They appealed, without effect, for more funds and compulsory powers to acquire suitable untenanted land. They purchased practically all the suitable untenanted land offered up to the passing of the Land Act of 1903, and they also acquired the tenant-right interest in any large holdings they could get for cash, or in exchange for untenanted land. They applied all the untenanted land they obtained to the enlargement of small holdings, where it was sufficiently adjacent to such holdings to be economically worked in conjunction with them. They utilised the remainder of the untenanted land they acquired for migrants transferred from other estates.

Purchase of all suitable estates offered.

Of all the estates offered for sale to the Board, tenanted and untenanted, there were not more than half a dozen which might be classed as suitable which they did not purchase, and they failed to get those because the price was excessive.

Board censured for not purchasing more properties, while as a matter of fact they purchased nearly every suitable estate offered.

They have been censured for not purchasing more properties; but as a matter of fact, they purchased practically all the suitable estates offered. They could not do more with the powers they possessed.

They were unable to procure sufficient land to migrate a considerable number of the tenants from the estates purchased, and they have utilised all the untenanted land they procured previous to the passing of the Act of 1903.

Besides the advantages conferred by migration and the enlargement of holdings, a large number of holdings have been greatly improved and raised to the standard of an economic holding by means of striping, main drainage, and improved road accommodation. On the Lang River and its tributaries over 6,000 acres of arable, and 600 acres of turbary and moor land, have been improved by drainage alone, to an extent which has enhanced the estimated value by more than £1,100 a year. I produce map showing the area drained.

Improvement in holdings by drainage operation of Board.

They carried out several other extensive drainage works, such as the

Deigau River, cost £1,100;
Yellow River, cost £1,500;
Gastann River, cost £200;
Glare River, cost £2,200;

and many other smaller rivers and main drains.

The tenants whose holdings come within this area have effected considerable improvement in them, and many holdings which, previous to the drainage, would not maintain a family, can now be made capable of doing so.

Referring to the entire of the congested districts, and having regard to the limited area of unutilized land available, it is my opinion that much more good can be effected through agricultural development than by migration. As already explained, migration appears only a possible means of relief for the comparatively small area of the inland congested districts adjacent to the grazing tracts of Connacht.

Agricultural development.

In one of my early reports to the Board, referring generally to the congested districts, I stated that the lands in the occupation of the small farmers in these districts might be aptly compared to a valuable mine worked with antiquated machinery by an owner possessing neither sufficient capital nor skill to develop its resources.

Without assuming a high standard of skill or requiring any additional labour beyond that now available, the value of the gross produce derived from these small farms could be doubled.

This result would be accomplished if the people would work the land in a husband-like manner, keep it free from weeds, give it adequate manuring, sow good seeds, grow a variety of crops, including arable crops for feeding their cattle largely in houses in the summer, to supplement the inferior food obtained from their poor pastures; grow root crops for feeding their cattle in winter; drain, reclaim, or otherwise improve the bad land on their holdings; exercise care in selection of breeding stock, keeping only those animals for breeding purposes that are well shaped, sound and best adapted to the holding; pay special attention to the production of poultry and eggs; and, in fact, learn to make the most of everything their lands can produce.

Suggestions for improvement of holdings

One of the most frequent primary causes of their poverty is want of sufficient manure to grow crops and keep their land in a productive state. Good tillage farming is impossible without adequate manuring. Bad land cannot be permanently improved without good cultivation and high manuring. The manure heap is the backbone of the farm.

Manuring.

The small farmer here rarely tries to grow any crops, except about one Irish acre of potatoes, the same extent of oats, a plot of cabbage, and occasionally a small plot of turnips. The cow or two he keeps are allowed to live as best they can in summer on the poor pastures of worn out land and in winter they are barely kept alive on the bad fare they get, consisting of straw and inferior hay, without roots. His cattle are seldom thrifty or profitable, and those he sells are disposed of at low prices.

Crops and Cattle.

Anyone knowing these districts cannot fail to be struck with the primitive and slovenly manner in which, as a rule, the cultivation of the land is attempted, and the thriftless appearance of many of the people, the live stock, and the houses and their surroundings.

Primitive cultivation.

It requires a powerful influence to induce them to change custom, or to do anything for themselves in a different manner to that in which they always saw it done. But if a nodus operandi can be applied to them which will create a general desire to work to improve their position, give them hope in their own efforts, and engender such a spirit of emulation as will cause them to vie with each other in the improvement of their land and their homes, general poverty would disappear from many of these districts.

Necessity for change of disposition.

It will not be sufficient to enumerate their faults and failings and point out the remedies. All their failings do not arise from ignorance. Thousands of sagacious hitizens work year after year with the farmers in England, on perhaps the best farmed land in the world, and yet they do not, and with the resources now at their command could not, imitate the English system of culture on their own holdings.

Interest instruction insufficient.

Improved means of transport and of marketing must be provided where required, and they must be helped, organised, and compelled, to do what is for their benefit, and when they adopt methods which they find from experience improve their circumstances, further agricultural development will be comparatively easy.

Transport and market facilities.

Steps to be taken to bring about improvement.

Some of the things they might be compelled to do without any hardship to themselves are :—
To keep their dwellings and surroundings in a sanitary state; not to allow noxious weeds to seed on their holdings; to spray their potatoes; and to provide a suitable place for milk and butter.

Among the methods to induce poor landholders to adopt better systems of agriculture, I suggested that a number of intelligent and successful small farmers, or trained agriculturists, to be called district agriculturists, be placed each in charge of a district covering an area which it would be found after some experience he could exercise efficient supervision over. And that these men, acting with a local committee, like the parish committees formed by the Board, shall, by practical demonstrations, organisation, a system of prizes or free grants, and other means stated in my report, apply themselves to the agricultural development of the districts in their charge, under the direction of a central department or county authority.

The Board were at all times strongly impressed with the necessity for promoting agricultural development, and they approved of schemes submitted by the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission, and subsequently carried out by that Department. There was, however, not a great deal of good done, except in the improvement of live stock.

Board's relation to Department of Agriculture.

On the passing of the Act of 1899, the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission ceased; and soon after an arrangement was come to with the Department of Agriculture, under which the agricultural development of the congested districts was entrusted to that body.

I see little results so far from the schemes of the Department of Agriculture, excepting what has been done for the improvement of live stock on much the same lines as that pursued by the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission.

As this matter of agricultural development is of such great importance to the congested districts, I feel bound to refer to it, but I do not do so in any hostile spirit, and suggest that the Department be requested to furnish detailed particulars of the schemes they have had in operation in the congested districts, and that when the Commission is inspecting these districts an official of the Department shall, when requested, accompany them to the places where their schemes are in operation, so that the Commission may have opportunities to form its own conclusions apart from any expression of opinion from me.

Estates Class III

As shown in the returns handed in, the Board have purchased, or arranged to purchase, since the Act of 1903, 166 estates for the sum of £1,335,708. Of these 10 estates were purchased in the Land Judge's Court for the sum of £89,799, and the remaining 88 estates were purchased through the Estates Commissioners for the sum of £1,154,397, and 8 were purchased for cash, amounting to £18,602.

Total area, rural

On all the estates purchased under the Act of 1903, 56,323 acres, having an estimated fair annual value* of £12,579, were untenanted, and 306,350 acres, with a rental of £43,916, were tenanted, the total number of tenants being 3,799. Of the untenanted land, 19,804 acres were agricultural, having an estimated annual value of £11,724; and 38,419 acres were bog and mountain, having an estimated fair annual value of £855.

Delay in vesting estates in Board by the Estates Commissioners.

On the 31st March last only 12 of the estates purchased through the Estates Commissioners, and having an annual value of £9,623, were vested in the Board, and as the Board were legally advised not to strip or alter any holdings until they are legal owners of the estate, they were only able to commence operations on a few of the estates purchased by them under the Act of 1903.

Unfair public criticism on Board for delay, for which they are not responsible.

This delay, for which the Board are in no way responsible, has created a very unfavourable impression and unfair public criticism from parties who do not understand the reasons for the Board's delay in dealing with these estates.

The Board frequently drew the attention of the Government to these delays, and each of the three Chief Secretaries, namely, Mr. Wyndham, Mr. Long, and Mr. Brien, as well as the Under-Secretary, Mr. Anthony MacDonnell, apparently did all they could to hasten the procedure of vesting; but notwithstanding their interference no satisfactory progress was made until within the last few months; and since March last 94 estates, with an annual value of £39,574, have been vested in the Board. But, as already explained, the Board are unable to proceed with stripping or fencing during summer, and consequently cannot commence their operations on these estates until November next.

Estates stripped which were purchased under Act of 1903.

They have stripped the holdings and parcelled the untenanted land on the following estates purchased under the Act of 1903 :—

County	Estates	Area	Fair Annual Value
		a r p	£ s d
Mayo, —	Hunter, ...	306 0 0	365 0 0
	Rafferty, ...	207 0 0	121 0 0
	Trevelin, ...	400 0 0	90 0 0
	Tighe, ...	525 0 0	76 0 0
	St. J. Blake, ...	367 0 0	428 0 0
	W. Connolly, ...	332 0 0	199 0 0
	Winstanley, ...	895 0 0	83 0 0
	D. J. Burke, ...	212 0 0	275 0 0
Galway, .	Nagart, ...	439 0 0	242 0 0
	Kerrison J., ...	1,295 0 0	580 0 0
	B. D. O'Reilly, ...	491 0 0	80 0 0
	Coolin, ...	1,483 0 0	462 0 0
	Blake, C. J., ...	1,153 0 0	359 0 0
	Fallon, ...	3,085 0 0	235 0 0
	M'Donnell, ...	187 0 0	146 0 0
	Baile, ...	571 0 0	158 0 0

* The words "estimated fair annual value" mean the equivalent of a second term rent fixed at time of purchase.

The following difficulty has arisen in connection with the Dames-Longworth Estate :—

Adjacent to the untenanted lands there are a number of tenant purchasers (who were originally tenants to Dames-Longworth) in occupation of small holdings, that is, holdings under £10 Poor Law Valuation. The Board desire to enlarge these holdings to about £15 annual value, but they are legally advised that, under Section 75 of the Act of 1903, they can only sell parcels of land to tenants or proprietors of holdings not exceeding £5 in rateable value; and, again, under the Act of 1889, Section 3, they cannot sell as additional land a parcel exceeding 10 acres or £10 rateable value, which would prevent them from enlarging the holdings under £5 to the £15 standard. There are also a few tenants in occupation of small holdings adjacent to these lands. If they give those tenants parcels of this land, they cannot be amalgamated to their present holdings, and in the present state of the law they would have to get the additional land as a separate holding.

Difficulties on the Dames-Longworth Estate.

Difficulties of the same nature will arise in connection with the disposal of practically every large area of untenanted land purchased under the Act of 1903.

The return handed in shows the estimated cost of the works completed by the landholders up to the 31st March, 1906, to be £182,913, and the grants in aid paid by the Board £29,159.

I drafted the Parish Committee scheme in 1897, and Father O'Hara induced the Board to give it a trial in the Swinford Union.

Parish Committee.

The first Parish Committee was formed in the migratory districts of the Swinford Union in 1897, and was so successful there it was gradually extended to a very considerable number of the congested districts. The map which I now produce shows all the parishes in the congested area where it is now in operation.

Formation of first Parish Committee.

The pamphlets which were printed in the 13th Report of the Board for the year ending 31st March, 1904, fully explain the scheme in operation, which were mainly directed towards assisting the people in improving their dwellings and surroundings, erecting out-offices for cattle, draining their land, and giving small contributions towards the construction of accommodation roads.

Aims of Parish Committee.

The Committee are composed of elected and ex-officio members; the ex-officio being clergy of all denominations resident in the parish, medical officers of the district, county councillor, and district councillors of the electoral divisions situate in the parish; also the landlord, or in his absence, the agent. In addition there are six members elected by the resident landholders in the congested districts portions of the parish.

Composition of Committee.

This Committee appoints a secretary and also a supervisor, both of whom must be approved of by the Congested Districts Board. The Board pay one-half the remuneration of these officers. The secretary is paid 5 per cent. on the amount of grant, but not exceeding £5. The supervisor is paid a sum not exceeding, under ordinary circumstances, 10 per cent. of the grant.

Secretary and supervisor of Committee. Secretary's and supervisor's remuneration. Administration of grant by committee.

To this Committee a sum of money is voted by the Board, to be administered under the Rules, and can only apply to works of the character stated in the Rules.

The works are carried out in accordance with a specification, printed copies of which are in the pamphlet, and they must be certified for by the supervisor before payment is made. General supervision over the scheme is exercised by an Inspector or other officer of the Board.

It was very difficult during the first few years to get the works satisfactorily done, or, in fact, to have the scheme taken up at all with any degree of earnestness, as the people thought the advance which it was possible for them to get too small. However, it began to work, and in every instance where it was well administered it has been a very great success. There are very few parishes now in which it is not well administered.

Difficulty at first to get people to take up scheme.

Some idea of the works done under this scheme can be formed from the particulars given in this year's Annual Report, from which it appears that up to the 31st March, 1906, 3,381 dwelling-houses were built or improved, and 7,892 out-offices were erected or improved, and various other works therein stated carried out.

Extent of work done under the scheme.

The maximum grant that can be given to any person for the erection of a dwelling-house is £5, and for an out-office £3, which must be roofed with corrugated iron.

Limits of grants.

The working of this scheme has, I believe I can say without any exaggeration, changed the appearance of the houses of the majority of the people throughout the Swinford Union, and added a great deal to the comfort of their lives, by inducing them to build out-offices for their cattle, and take them from their dwellings where they had been previously housed. Ten or twelve years ago about 75 per cent. of the people in the Swinford Union kept their cattle in their dwellings. I think it safe to say that not more than 20 or 25 per cent. keep them in them now; and a very large number of the houses in which cattle used to be housed are now well kept both inside and outside. The space at the end of the house which was used for cattle has been converted into a sleeping apartment, usually provided with a boarded floor, and windows with movable sashes put in. A considerable number of landholders to whom no free grants were given have followed the example of their neighbours who got aid in the improvement of their houses and erection of out-offices.

Results of scheme.

HENRY DORAN,
Chief Land Inspector.

September, 1906.

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TABLE II.—Showing Land required to raise the Average Poor Law Valuation per Head of Population in £35 and upwards in each County

Congested Districts County.	Area in Statute Acres.	Population in 1901.	Poor Law Valuation.	Poor Law Valuation per head of Population.	Acres per head of Population.
A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.
Mayo,	321,186	123,107	124,546	1 0 2	3 8
Roscommon,	232,403	81,065	41,373	2 8 5	4 2
Galway,	244,659	96,491	67,905	1 0 4	5-2
Leitrim,	374,004	35,865	67,213	1 10 8	5 8
Sligo,	162,692	50,041	28,226	1 9 4	5 5
Clare,	4,104	585	824	3 15 2	11 5
Cork,	337,996	50,685	47,577	1 8 10	6 7
Down,	374,943	104,552	106,704	9 29 8	7 8
Kerry,	310,803	80,599	164,268	1 5 2	8-0

Some of the statements returned as non-confidential are used

TABLE III.—Showing Area, Population, and Poor Law

COUNTY.	A. or Mayo including Wicklow Congested Districts.			B. or Mayo including scheduled districts from which it is considered a sufficient number of landholders to appreciably relieve congestion would be derived.		
	Area.	Population.	Poor Law Valuation.	Area.	Population.	Poor Law Valuation.
Clare,	—	—	—	4,104	585	824
Cork,	166,348	54,210	28,959	132,843	21,304	17,047
Down,	217,992	51,800	46,362	268,552	65,565	57,443
Kerry,	168,345	56,349	42,969	167,343	46,069	58,389
Total for Counties outside Conamara.	553,685	121,971	121,190	1,223,964	139,179	139,289
Galway,	168,338	32,214	23,569	176,648	4,596	6,093
Leitrim,	1,890	573	1,315	—	—	—
Mayo,	167,316	25,899	18,135	146,347	6,790	8,786
Roscommon,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sligo,	14,516	8,171	7,177	—	—	—
Total for Counties in Conamara.	373,142	67,099	69,969	423,793	10,646	13,889
GRAND TOTALS, ..	926,827	178,970	178,143	1,647,757	225,925	263,178

each Congested Districts County to £2, also the Poor Law Valuation of non-Residential Holdings of containing Congested Districts.

Average Poor Law Valuation per Acre.	Poor Law Valuation of Additional Land registered outside the scheduled districts to raise the average Poor Law Valuation per Acre of the Population of the Congested Districts to £2.	Poor Law Valuation of Additional Land registered outside the scheduled districts if the Population of the Districts Districts A. on Map) and the Inland Districts A. on Map) were included.	Total Poor Law Valuation of all non-Residential Holdings of £10 and upwards in each County containing Congested Districts excluding Buildings.	Remarks.	Congested Districts County.
7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
a. d.	£	£	£		
1 0	128,248	87,565	45,871	* These figures have been ascertained after local enquiry by Board's Offi- cers, and may be taken as fairly accurate. Do. ..	Mon.
4 2	30,976	30,979	508,338		Donegal.
2 8	84,227	50,758	158,802	† These figures have been ascertained from returns forwarded by the Rate Collectors of each District, and are in some cases incomplete; the data reach they can only be assumed to give a rough approximation. Do. ..	Galway.
5 2	14,697	14,828	19,480	Do. ..	Lettitia.
5 4	25,052	19,859	120,144	Do. ..	Sligo.
5 0	55	—	—		Clara.
6 0	35,075	—	158,688	Do. ..	Cork.
5 0	107,087	—	19,427	Do. ..	Down.
5 0	10,165	—	19,031	Do. ..	Kerry.

by the occupiers in connection with residential holdings.

It should be noted that column 10 includes non-residential tenements situated in Congested as well as Non-Congested Districts.

Valuation of the Congested Counties in Ireland—County, 1901.

C. on Map indicates Scheduled Districts from which it is considered a sufficient number of landholders in agreement relieve congestion would migrate.			Total of Congested Counties.			Poor Law Valuation per head of population in 1900, Scheduled Districts of County.	County.
Area.	Population.	Poor Law Valuation.	Area.	Population.	Poor Law Valuation.		
Acres.		£	Acres.		£	c. d.	
—	—	—	4,134	340	844	1 12 2	Clara.
—	—	—	117,925	38,236	45,871	1 8 9	Cork.
—	—	—	524,043	104,518	108,704	0 19 5	Down.
—	—	—	882,895	88,208	108,868	1 4 3	Kerry.
—	—	—	1,728,636	221,844	221,879	—	Totals for Counties outside County.
202,813	38,979	35,992	144,879	36,481	55,805	1 0 4	Galway.
171,113	38,382	48,188	174,084	30,965	47,513	1 10 8	Lettitia.
486,230	64,928	104,428	985,395	136,187	171,387	1 0 2	Mayo.
132,493	31,085	41,175	132,473	31,085	65,178	1 0 5	Donegal.
138,878	30,979	31,082	148,882	35,041	38,228	1 0 4	Sligo.
1,365,437	207,944	280,781	1,891,943	284,870	318,579	—	Totals for Counties in County.
1,108,437	*207,944	280,781	*1,891,943	*284,870	317,543	1 3 0	GRAND TOTAL.

* These figures have been verified since I gave evidence, and the necessary corrections have been made in the minutes of evidence.—H. Davis

NOTE.—The population of the Congested Districts was taken as the basis to indicate approximately the land required. Given on Table II. and III. as the number of agricultural holdings in the Congested Districts had not been ascertained at the time the evidence was given.

TABLE IV.—REVENUE OF AREA AND POOR LAW VALUATION OF

COUNTY

TOWNSHIP	Congested District Divisions.										Non-Congested					
	I.		II.		III.		IV.		V.		I.		II.		III.	
	In possession of private Owner.		In possession of Tenant, Freeholders under the Purchase Acts.		Held under Temporary Lettings.		Tenants not assimilated.		On Estates purchased by Board.		In possession of private Owner.		In possession of Tenant, Freeholders under the Purchase Acts.		Held under Temporary Lettings.	
	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.
Ballyn,	—	—	—	—	—	—	440	320	—	—	379	361	—	—	5,732	2,407
Ballyn,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32,771	6,377	1,544	407	4,932	2,735
Ballyn,	1,040	144	—	—	—	—	16,797	533	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Castlet,	935	802	—	—	216	10	1,691	915	790	141	2,088	1,268	90	69	596	121
Clonsilla,	1,187	891	—	—	—	—	832	640	129	98	1,376	797	—	—	—	—
Edina,	1,124	194	—	—	—	—	875	343	1,142	98	771	553	—	—	—	—
Swinton,	879	343	310	95	—	—	1,066	730	790	242	730	819	—	—	430	873
Westport,	1,815	373	—	—	218	58	27,220	1,089	10,600	408	—	—	154	79	411	109
Total for Co. Mayo	5,757	5,119	910	60	434	79	31,003	4,188	21,810	1,064	16,269	9,746	1,793	748	11,432	5,664

COUNTY

	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.
Adrian,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,144	1,892	—	—	—	—
Ballyn,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,080	1,185	—	—	—	—
Boys,	100	80	140	98	—	—	183	75	—	—	730	462	819	400	157	77
Carletonville,	—	—	—	—	20	20	210	60	—	—	1,133	772	917	902	1,109	761
Castles,	455	394	94	54	—	—	681	244	840	333	5,799	6,971	338	218	—	—
Enniscorthy,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,181	5,746	979	47	—	—
Marston,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,888	2,919	1,079	678	—	—
Total for Co. Wexford	610	514	339	139	39	20	1,082	422	849	385	18,185	18,774	1,873	1,187	1,226	848

Non-Residential Holdings of £35 Valuation and upwards

MAYO.

[illegible]

ROSCOMMON

[illegible]

SUMMARY FOR COUNTY MAYOR

(A) Includes,	Acres.	Four Low Values, 1900	All abouts in Computed Electoral Division.	Acres.	Four Low Values, 1900
(A) Includes,	14,464 Mountain and Bog.	£111	(Computed Electoral Division,	1,940	£19
	5,540 Mountain and Bog.	£111	(Non-Computed Electoral Division,	1,000	£25
(A) Includes,	56,600 Mountain and Bog	£1,416	(Computed Electoral Division,	37,312	£707
			(Non-Computed Electoral Division,	18,000	£461
Total, Mountain and Bog Included,	76,604	£2,638			
				Acres.	£
Total for County Mayo,				1,06,071	£2,072
Total, Mountains and Bog,				51,320	£,009
Total for County Mayo, exclusive Mountains and Bog,				54,751	£,063

Historical information as to tenure of buildings as above classified could not be obtained in the time available and inquiries are being made with the object of securing fuller information as to tenure of each of above classes.

TABLE V.—Showing how the £14,000,000 worth of Land referred to in Evidence was estimated on the Census of 1891, assuming that the Average Poor Law Valuation per head of the Population of the Congested Districts was raised to £2 by the purchase of Land outside the Congested Districts at 25 years' purchase of the Poor Law Valuation given in Col. 8.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS COUNTY.	Area in Statute Acres.	Population in 1891.	Poor Law Valuation.	Poor Law Valuation per head of Population.	Acres per head of Population.	Average Poor Law Valuation per acre.	Land required outside the Congested Districts to raise the Average Valuation of the Population of the Congested Districts to £2 per head.	
							Poor Law Valuation.	Area—acres, if worth 16s. per acre.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Kerry.	661,902	85,881	29,916	£ 4 4.	7.29	2.58	60,886	196,172
Galway.	864,389	75,885	21,176	0 17 10.	7.50	2.27	59,390	186,640
Donegal.	831,123	118,559	26,171	0 15 0.	7.46	2.49	111,379	353,538
Mayo.	855,650	103,596	230,664	0 18 3.	6.51	2.93	107,638	386,095
Cork.	327,395	29,585	45,551	1 5 5.	9.97	2.76	33,550	65,758
Letterke.	174,606	24,350	45,240	1 6 3.	4.76	3.29	22,448	41,396
Sligo.	143,000	15,960	41,329	1 5 5.	5.00	3.20	15,518	47,156
Enniskillen.	191,502	35,134	39,335	1 3 9.	4.90	3.90	25,162	64,961
Total.	3,588,469	649,518	556,341	1 0 3.	6.08	2.88	448,611	1,609,233

LATE 19TH CENTURY DE CONSIDERATIONS IN IRELAND

Map showing the extent of the various districts in Ireland, as they were in 1850.

Scale of Miles 0 10 20 30

Legend: A. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

B. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

C. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

D. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

E. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

F. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

G. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

H. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

I. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

J. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

K. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

L. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

M. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

N. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

O. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

P. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

Q. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

R. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

S. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

T. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

U. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

V. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

W. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

X. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

Y. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

Z. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AA. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AB. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AC. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AD. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AE. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AF. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AG. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AH. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AI. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AJ. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AK. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AL. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AM. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AN. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AO. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AP. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AQ. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AR. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AS. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AT. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AU. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AV. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AW. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AX. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AY. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

AZ. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

BA. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

BB. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

BC. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

BD. Districts of the Kingdom of Ireland, as they were in 1850.

TABLE VI.

I.—Parish Committee Scheme (known as the County Mayo Scheme, and in operation in designated counties other than County Donegal).

Year.	Number of Parish Committees formed.	Net amount of Grants paid by Board.	MAINTENANCE OF WORK CURRENT ON.												Total.
			Erection, repairs, erected or improved.		Out-reliefs erected or improved.		Drains or Fences made or improved.		Accommodation made or improved.		Miscellaneous Works (Construction of Road, &c.)				
			Number.	Grants made.	Number.	Grants made.	Number.	Grants made.	Number.	Grants made.	Number.	Grants made.	Number.	Grants made.	
1895-96	10	1,365	677	3,181	591	5,419	1,587	255	2,671	559	415	1,079	13,867	3,155	
1896-97	11	1,805	614	2,361	598	8,685	1,854	359	1,810	361	514	1,159	15,559	3,509	
1897-98	12	2,011	658	3,752	595	1,286	8,179	310	753	415	49	15	14,221	3,119	
1898-99	13	2,236	658	9,250	1,408	11,781	2,805	122	665	162	71	59	19,797	4,111	
1899-00	14	2,441	1,138	9,565	1,655	13,357	3,157	377	2,555	260	415	311	27,666	4,305	
1900-01	15	2,656	1,379	13,675	1,831	14,350	3,315	458	1,340	359	561	320	30,251	4,598	
1901-02	16	2,871	1,620	15,340	2,019	15,759	3,519	550	1,611	560	1,071	379	31,764	5,105	
1902-03	17	3,086	1,861	17,011	2,219	17,119	3,719	641	1,811	661	1,271	469	33,281	5,612	
1903-04	18	3,301	2,101	18,681	2,419	18,811	3,919	731	1,911	761	1,471	559	34,791	6,119	
1904-05	19	3,516	2,341	20,351	2,619	20,011	4,119	821	2,011	861	1,671	649	36,301	6,626	
1905-06	20	3,731	2,581	22,021	2,819	21,621	4,319	911	2,111	961	1,871	739	37,811	7,133	

II.—County Donegal Parish Committee Scheme.

Year.	Number of Parish Committees formed.	Net amount of Grants paid by Board.	Erection, repairs, erected or improved.	Out-reliefs erected or improved.	Drains or Fences made or improved.	Accommodation made or improved.	Miscellaneous Works (Construction of Roads, &c.)	Total.
1895-96	10	1,365	677	3,181	591	5,419	1,587	13,867
1896-97	11	1,805	614	2,361	598	8,685	1,854	15,559
1897-98	12	2,011	658	3,752	595	1,286	8,179	14,221
1898-99	13	2,236	658	9,250	1,408	11,781	2,805	19,797
1899-00	14	2,441	1,138	9,565	1,655	13,357	3,157	27,666
1900-01	15	2,656	1,379	13,675	1,831	14,350	3,315	30,251
1901-02	16	2,871	1,620	15,340	2,019	15,759	3,519	31,764
1902-03	17	3,086	1,861	17,011	2,219	17,119	3,719	33,281
1903-04	18	3,301	2,101	18,681	2,419	18,811	3,919	34,791
1904-05	19	3,516	2,341	20,351	2,619	20,011	4,119	36,301
1905-06	20	3,731	2,581	22,021	2,819	21,621	4,319	37,811

Particulars as to the nature of the work carried out under the "Mayo Scheme" for the years 1897 to 1900, inclusive, and under the "County Donegal Scheme" for the years 1900 to 1905, inclusive, were not ascertained.

APPENDIX V.

Memoranda handed in by Rev. Denis O'Hara in connection with the evidence given by him before the Commission.

I.—Memorandum as to Funds devoted to Estates Business by the Congested Districts Board.

(Prepared for the Rev. Denis O'Hara, P.P., by the Secretary of the Congested Districts Board.)

The expenditure of £10,000 in 1901-2, referred to by Lord Dudley during the examination of the Rev. Denis O'Hara on the 2nd October, was the portion of the Board's fixed income for that year devoted to estates business and charged to "Estates" in the accounts. A further sum of £5,177 was provided from the general balance carried over from the previous year, and £8,950 was expended on administration for estates work. In the following year, 1902-3, the amount provided out of "fixed income" for estates was £28,540, with £10,990 charged to administration.

With regard to the comparison made between the expenditure in 1901-2 and the expenditure in 1905-6, it may be seen from a table at page 7 of the "Memorandum B" sent to the Commissioners early in September, that in 1905-6 the net expenditure charged to estates was £37,971, but a further £30,370 was charged to administration, for estates business, making a total of £68,341, of which £8,134 charged to "estates account" and £30,370 charged to "administration" were provided out of the fixed income for that year, and the balance of £29,837 was obtained from the Land Commission for "enhanced value" of estates sold, for profit on the redemption of Guaranteed Land Stock advanced for the purchase of the older estates, and for repayments of Sinking Fund. The table shows that from the commencement of their operations up to 31st March, 1906, the Board had spent £152,000 on the estates out of their own funds after deducting all receipts from estates and exclusive of the cost of administration.

A statement attached shows that the gross expenditure on estates in 1901-2 was £210,130, and in 1906-7 it was £375,378, exclusive of administration, which cost £8,950 in 1901-2 and £20,370 in 1905-6. The comparison shows clearly the expansion of the Board's expenditure under these heads during the five years referred to. In the current year, 1906-7, the Board are paying into the Estates work, out of their own funds, the sum of £74,000, made up as follows:—

Repayments from Land Commission for "enhanced value" on estates sold,	£54,000
From general balance carried over from last year's account,	10,000
From this year's "fixed income,"	10,000
Total,	£74,000

It must not be assumed that this sum of £74,000 indicates the extent of the Board's estates work in the year.

The items on the Estimate are:—

Purchase of tenants' interests for the enlargement of other holdings,	£38,000
Improvement Works on estates,	108,300
Purchase of Live Stock,	14,600
Surveys, &c.,	10,500
Advances due to Land Commission on advances for purchase,	15,600
Interest due to vendors,	27,000
Interest on borrowed money,	2,183
Total,	£214,783

There will also be paid £50,000 for Land Stock to redeem stock advanced to the Board under the Act of 1896, and £58,375 to the Board of Works in repayment of loans for improving estates, making a grand total of £333,358, which is to be met by rents, loan from Board of Works for new estates, repayments by Land Commission, &c., in addition to the £74,000 above mentioned.

The repayments for "enhanced value" are, in fact, moneys provided out of the Board's income in former years and by loans from the Board of Works, recovered by the prices charged to the tenants on the resale of the estates. These repayments in connection with estates bought before the passing of the Act of 1894, the repayments of sinking fund contained in the annuities of 4 per cent. paid by the Board on advances and the profit made by the redemption of Guaranteed Loan Stock under Section 2 of the Act of 1896, are spread over three years and are as follows:—

Received from Land Commission in 1904-5,	£35,974
Received from Land Commission in 1905-6,	175,383
Received from Land Commission (estimated) in 1906-7,	190,000
Total,	£401,357
Deduct price of Land Stock purchased in the market by the Board to redeem the Stock advanced under the Act of 1896 for purchase of these Estates,	£168,128
Net sum receivable from Land Commission,	£233,229
Deduct borrowed money due to Board of Works,	54,000
	£179,229

This £179,229, includes £58,540 "repayment of Sinking Fund" and "profit on redemption of Stock," referred to at page 10 of Memorandum A.

Having these refunds available, the Board have been able to finance their estates business up to and including the present financial year, but after 31st March next they will require further funds to effect the improvement of the properties now in hands and to meet the probable loss on resale.

While they are recovering about £60,000* from the "enhanced value" of the estates re-sold, they are losing upwards of £21,000 on the resale of the same estates, having decided to sell the estates to the tenants at prices falling short, to that extent, of the total amount expended in improvements.

F. W. D. MITCHELL.

2nd October, 1906.

STATEMENT OF THE GROSS PAYMENTS AND GROSS RECEIPTS IN CONNECTION WITH ESTATES BUSINESS FROM 1892 TO 1906.

Year.	Gross Payments.	Gross Receipts.	Net sum borrowed from Board of Works deducting repayments.	
	£	£	£	
1892-93	7,600	—		
1893-94	1,070	798		
1894-95	6,408	161		
1895-96	2,563	8,620 (1)		
1896-97	7,372	836 (2)		
1897-98	18,357	18,782		
1898-99	30,323	8,775		
1899-1900	330,928	343,453		
1900-01	73,853	59,964		
1901-02	110,130	68,903	25,000	
1902-03	112,898	105,650	7,200	
1903-04	105,209	55,147	13,990	
1904-05	134,360	108,973	16,990	
1905-06	275,178	250,597 (3)	13,000	
1906-07	363,000	333,000	17,525	(Estimate.)
	1,575,547	1,364,984	87,005	

NOTE (1.) The receipts in 1895-6 include the proceeds of resale of the French estate.

NOTE (2.) The Clare Island and Leonard estates, purchased in 1894-5 and 1896-7, were not resold for cash, but for annuities payable to the Board for 66½ years and amounting to £620 per annum.

NOTE (3.) Included in the payments in the last three years is £168,128 for purchase of Land Stock lodged with Land Commission, and the receipts include £401,357 released by this judgment and transferred to the Board, as stated in attached memorandum.

* Note—Exclusive of £11,000 profit on the redemption of Guaranteed Loan Stock.

II.—MR. WYNDHAM'S MEMORANDUM AS TO INCREASE OF BOARD'S FUNDS.

Irish Office, Old Queen-street,

London, S.W.,

4th July, 1902.

I have been in communication with the Treasury on the subject of the Board's requests (a) for an extension of credit for purchase in County Mayo, (b) for an addition of £20,000 a year to the Board's income.

The strongest objection on the part of the Treasury is to any increase of the charge for administration, and is grounded on the view that further economies are possible in respect of our staff. I have put forward again the argument, which the Board has previously urged, that the charge for stationery was improperly imposed on the Board in 1898, and that the provision of an office ought to be undertaken by the Board of Works; but I have not succeeded in overcoming the difficulty. Two suggestions, however, are made which I have undertaken to recommend to the Board on the understanding that if they are accepted an addition of £5,000 a year to the Board's income will be given immediately and a further increase will be favourably considered.

The first is that Mr. Holmes, the Treasury Remembrancer, shall be allowed to make a thorough inspection of the work of the office with a view to suggesting any economies which may occur to him as being capable of being effected by re-arrangement of duties, by alteration of the methods at present in use, or by dispensing with any clerks or records which may appear to be superfluous.

I do not think any objection can be made to this proposal.

The method in which the office is conducted now, I am confident, bear the closest scrutiny; and it is not unusual that the Treasury should wish to be convinced by the testimony of their own officer, that our staff is fully and economically employed, before they grant the means of enlarging it.

The second suggestion is that the Board, in order to reduce law charges, should pay a salary to a solicitor, who should be employed inside the office, and that the present system of paying fees to an outside solicitor should cease.

This question has, I understand, already been to some extent discussed. It is, I think, clear that the system of paying fees for work done was better suited to the earlier period of the Board's work, when our legal transactions were small and comparatively rare, than to the present state of things. I understand that, apart from the question of expense, it would be a great convenience to the Secretary, in carrying on the daily business of the Board, if he were able to refer the legal questions which now constantly arise to a qualified lawyer inside the office. But the question of expense is also important; a solicitor's fees are regularly and properly in some degree proportionate to the size of the transactions; and a considerable addition to the Board's legal expenditure will be the necessary consequence of purchasing from year to year on a larger scale. This we shall now be in a position to do. The £5,000 a year for land improvement and administration is to be given as a necessary concomitant of a further and immediate extension of credit up to £100,000 for Mayo and Roscommon. When the remainder of the Dillon Estate, accelerated by accepting inspection by the Land Commission, takes place, we can proceed to further purchases; and the administrative expenditure, which must be a corollary to any such extension of credit operations, will be met, I feel sure, by an increase of the annual £5,000 up to £20,000 on the formation of a detailed scheme of allocation by the Board. Such a scheme will provide also for fishing industries and parish committees, &c., on the lines provisionally approved at our last meeting.

It is important to clinch this bargain with the Treasury. One element in it is the appointment of a salaried solicitor.

The Board will, I venture to hope, agree that such an adjustment made at the instance of the Treasury for so considerable a "quid pro quo," cannot be held to cast any reflection on the zeal and ability with which Mr. Fetherall has conducted our business on lines which, however admirable for an intermittent policy of purchase, are no longer adapted to the transaction of purchases and re-settlement and re-sale, on a larger and more continuous basis.

I should be glad to have the authority of the Board for stating to the House on Thursday, the 10th, that the Treasury had made these concessions. This I cannot do unless the Board authorise me to grant the two points on which the Treasury insists.

GEORGE WYNDHAM.

4th July, 1902.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD FOR IRELAND.

Special Meeting—Tuesday, 8th July, 1902.

The Chief Secretary's letter of 4th instant having been read, it was decided at once that the Chief Secretary be authorised to assent to the conditions imposed by the Treasury: (1). That Mr. Holmes, Treasury Remembrancer, be invited to inquire into the question of office administration; (2). That the Board do appoint a Solicitor, who shall be an Officer of the Board, and give his whole time to the business of the Board, on condition to be hereafter laid down—in consideration of an addition of £5,000 to the Board's income for this year, a probable increase up to £20,000, in future years, as well as an extension of the limit of credit for the purchase of estates in Counties Roscommon and Mayo of £100,000.

F. W. D. MITCHELL,

Secretary.

APPENDIX VI.

Memorandum handed in by Mr. William Spotswood-Green in connection with the evidence given by him before the Commission.

I was appointed to be one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Irish Fisheries on January 14th, 1890. The Agricultural Act of 1889 transferred the duties of the Inspectors of Fisheries to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and under that Department I am now Chief Inspector of Irish Fisheries.

On the 9th of November, 1891, I was appointed by Royal Warrant a Temporary Commissioner of the Congested Districts Board and my appointment has since been renewed.

Before accepting fishery work under the Government I had on more than one occasion reported about sea fishery matters for the Royal Dublin Society, which Society had during the last two centuries interested themselves, sometimes in conjunction with the Government, in the fisheries of the country. The following extract from their report of 1890 will explain what then occurred.

ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY,

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL, DECEMBER 4TH, 1890.

APPENDIX E.

Report of the Fisheries Committee.

The Fisheries Committee of the Royal Dublin Society was appointed by the Council on February 24th, 1887. Their first act was to ask Rev. William Spotswood Green, of Carrigrohane, County Cork, to report to them as to what had been done in encouraging fisheries in the South of Ireland, and as to how the Society could assist. In compliance with this request Mr. Green submitted a preliminary report which the Council laid before the Society on June 2nd, 1887.

Mr. Green was then requested by the Committee to continue his inquiries, and to extend them to the South-West Coast. The results of this investigation were embodied in Mr. Green's second Report "On the Fisheries of the South and South-West Coast of Ireland," which was laid before the Society on March 1st, 1888.

Mr. Green visited America in the summer of 1888, and at the request of our Committee he submitted a report on American fisheries, which was laid before the Society on March 7th, 1889.

In November, 1889, a correspondence took place with Mr. J. H. Tuke of Beaufort, Hinchin, in which he suggested that a complete survey of the fishing grounds should be made from the Coast of Kerry to the North of Donegal, and that to defray the expenses, which would necessarily be considerable, the assistance of Government should be sought. We are informed that a communication was made to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, in reference to this suggestion, by your Honorary Secretary, and the following letter was received:—

"Chief Secretary's Office,
"Dublin Castle,
"24th January, 1890.

"DEAR MR. UNLACKE TOWNSEND,

"I have read with great interest the Reports which have been prepared at the instance of the Royal Dublin Society on the subject of Irish Fisheries. There is, however, one question not dealt with in any of the Reports of your Society that I have seen, which, I think, well deserves its consideration.

"It relates to the amount and distribution of the fish supply on the West Coast of Ireland. So far as I have been able to discover, no survey, even approximately complete, has ever been attempted of these waters, for the purpose of determining how far they are suitable for supporting a large fishing population. In the absence of information on this point any efforts which may be made to stimulate the industry in the West of Ireland must evidently be carried on in partial ignorance of one of the most important elements of the problem which presses for solution. If your Society could do something towards the investigation of this question I am sure they would have effected a very valuable work in the interest of Irish Fishing.

"I am,

"Yours very truly,

"ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR,

"To C. Unlacke Townsend, Esq."

The result of this correspondence was that I was invited to undertake the survey suggested by Mr. Balfour. It lasted over two years. The expenses were provided partly by Government and partly by the Society. My Reports on the survey and those of the scientific observers who accompanied me were published by the Royal Dublin Society in 1890 and 1891.

The general condition of the Western Sea Fisheries in 1890 may be thus stated. On the South-West Coasts the Spring Mackerel and Autumn Mackerel Fisheries were flourishing, and the new railway extensions which Government were promoting in the South, West and North promised new facilities for the fish trade.

Our investigations extended from the coast line to 60 miles at sea and into over 500 fathoms of water.

On the west coast most of the small factories owned boats or canoes of some sort. These boats were used for trading, collecting weed, and, in the various seasons, for fishing. Most of the owners of these boats had pieces of herring nets, with which they caught herrings in the creeks and bays (mostly spent herrings), or lines with which they caught cod and ling. Many of these nets and lines were provided out of charitable donations for the relief of distress entrusted to my colleague, Sir Thomas Brady, and some by fishery loans. This fishing was for the local demand, and as this demand was very limited, a good night's fishing often produced a glut, and the fishing was in consequence abandoned. All such boats were enumerated in the statistical returns as fishing boats, and their operations recorded and dated as fishing though the catch might not represent £5 worth in the year.

In the congested districts north of Kerry no despatch of fish to distant markets, or, in other words, no export trade in fish existed, except in the following instances:—

(A) Lobsters were caught and despatched to English markets by either the fishermen themselves or by buyers on the coast.

(B) Periwinkles were despatched from some districts.

(C) Mackerel curing on a small scale, in the Autumn, had been practised at a few places on the Mayo coast, but was abandoned.

Although the take of fish was counted by "boxes" in our returns, a "box," being the unit found most convenient, it is, I think, safe to say that in the Congested Districts from Kerry to Lough Swilly there was not a fish box for despatch of sea fish. To the north of the Shannon in 1890, except that the canoes on the coast of Clare occasionally caught a few early mackerel, the Spring mackerel fishing was unknown. The Board introduced the Spring mackerel fishing in 1892 to the coast of Galway, and for the first few years worked it. At the same time the Autumn mackerel fishery was developed, and the curing of cod and ling for export established and worked on the coasts of Galway, Mayo, and Donegal. Experiments were also made in herring fishing, but it was not until the autumn of 1893 that the Board worked a herring curing station at Downings, and later on Inishboe. The cod and ling curing was gradually abandoned, as it could not be made to pay, and the fish was sold fresh instead. Almost the whole value of the export trade now existing for sea fish between the County Clare and Malin Head is the result of action taken by the Board to develop the fisheries.

In 1891 I proposed a scheme to the Royal Dublin Society for starting fishery development on the west coast by experimentally opening the Spring mackerel fishery at Aran Islands. This would need the chartering of a steamer to run the fish to Galway and telegraphic communication with the islands. It was then I learned that Mr. Balfour had determined to create a Congested Districts Board. The Royal Dublin Society, therefore, decided to let the matter stand over. The Under Secretary, Sir West Ridgway, however, instructed me to negotiate for a steamer service to the Aran Islands. This I arranged. It was subsidised for the first year out of the fund for the Relief of Distress and afterwards taken over by the Congested Districts Board.

9. At the first meeting of the Congested Districts Board that was held in Dublin, November 19th, 1891, I was authorised to try the Spring mackerel fishing at Aran. There was but little time to make all necessary preparations. The Government, however, acted promptly about telegraphic communication, and the Post Office authorities had the cable laid in good time. We secured the services of Mr. W. Harvey, of Cork, who was in the fish trade, to work the sales, and we were fortunate in providing him with Mr. Thomas Shimmion, of the Isle of Man, as local manager. A bulk and cargo of ice were secured and moored at Aran.

Seven first-class mackerel boats from Arklow were subsidised to fish for the season and test the fishery.

Several local crews were put in training under skilled instructors in boats supplied by private persons, which boats we had to manage. A successful season was the result, and the possibility of such a fishery deeply impressed the local people, so that applications for boats and gear began to come in.

10. While these things were going on at Aran we opened curing stations for cod and ling at Boffin under Mr. Govettson, an expert in fish-curing, whom we brought from Norway for the purpose. Stations were also opened along the Mayo coast, where transit facilities for a fresh fish trade did not exist.

11. In these first enterprises of the Congested Districts Board I was much assisted by Mr. D. H. Lane, who for the last five years has been my colleague as Inspector of Fisheries under the Department of Agriculture.

The year 1892 was for me a very busy year. While the mackerel fishing was going on at Aran I could never leave the new crews and instructors for long; but at odd times I managed to ship materials for the new curing stations, and convey them to the sites we had fixed on from Teelin in Donegal to Galway. In September of that year Sir Horace Plunkett joined me in a complete tour of inspection from the north of Donegal to the south of Cork. Almost all the recommendations of our report have since been carried out. One general conclusion we arrived at was—

"Fishery Development."

"The fisheries of the congested portions of the west and south-west coast are naturally divided between those north and those south of Galway. In the latter the work of the Board will consist in enabling the populations of the congested districts to take a larger part in and derive more benefit from a great and important trade now existing, while north of Galway (including the Aran Islands), with the exception of a trade opened up by the Board during the present year, some lobster fishing, trawling in Galway Bay, and some local trade previously existing, the industry has, one may almost say, to be created."

Our views on fishery instruction, which was then engaging the attention of the Board, may be gathered from the following—

APPENDIX B.

Memo. on Fishery Instruction.

"Among the many suggestions which have been made to the Board, the establishment of Fishery Schools has been most industrially advocated and must be considered. On this important question we may state at the outset, that fishing cannot be taught to boys in a school, a fact proved by experiments in other countries, and fully recognised by our late colleague, Father Davis. Sea fishing can be taught to boys in only one way, and that is by sending them to sea under the care of suitable skilled hands. The two boats lent to the Board by Miss Skerrett were, during the last season's mackerel fishery, used in this manner for the benefit of lads from Clifden parish, and a few from Aran Islands. Miss Mansfield's and Mr. O'Kelly's boats were also similarly employed for lads from Carna. Mr. O'Kelly, who has had long experience as a practical sea fisherman, has done most important work in this direction.

* Next season Miss Skerrett's boats will be further used in other fisheries, when the mackerel fishing is over, and a small crock, purchased by the Board, will also be utilised in a similar manner.

"After next season we shall be in a better position to see how far further efforts of this nature are advisable.

"The collateral industry of fish curing could, to a certain extent, be taught at school, but not unless the school became practically a curing station, and every curing station established by the Board is a school in this respect. As cooping is a trade known to most of the skilled curers who are employed, this work might readily be carried on in what would otherwise be idle times, and instruction given to the youths of the district at the same time. Net mending is an industry which can be carried on directly in a school, and the boys be thus rendered more valuable as members of a crew, when their turn comes to become sea fishermen. At Aran, where the mackerel and herring fishing has been attempted on a large scale, and consequently the cure of long trunks of nets became of vital importance, a school for the purpose has been started. In its expense and management, the National Board have combined with our Board. The system here adopted was to offer the children of the district one penny per hour for two hours per day attendance and work on the nets belonging to the Board. Mr. James Doyle, one of the Arklow skippers, who came to the Aran Mackerel Fishery, has been employed at 25 per week as netmender for the islands, and a large attendance, requiring an extension of the premises, testifies to the enthusiasm with which the plan has been taken up. The teaching of net mending might be encouraged in many districts by the engagement of a local instructor at small wages. This we strongly recommend at Tip and Inishree. In the case where special nets, such as the Aran mackerel trawls, had to be handled, further skill was necessary. The instruction could well be extended by purchasing nets direct from the loom, and mounting, corking, and backing them in the schools.

"Fishery instruction ought to be looked upon as a most important part of the Board's work, but must be varied to suit the requirements of each district.

"W. S. G.

"H. C. P.

"December 1st, 1892."

In those days there was a great abundance of splendid cod and ling on the coast. The day I first landed Mr. Goverton at Boffa, one boat with most imperfect gear, had landed 60 down. At Teelin we had a Grimsby man in charge. It was, however, clear that we needed more expert help. Mr. Shismin was now taken on to the Board's staff to take special charge of the Board's work, chiefly in Galway and Mayo. He has remained in our service until this year, when, owing to impaired health, he had to resign. With a view to secure the most skilled curers of cod and ling for the Donegal stations, I obtained letters of introduction from the Fishery Board of Scotland to their Fishery Officers—Messrs. Milliken and Duffie—in Shetland, and I arrived there on November 29, 1892. At Southwray I was shown all the most up-to-date methods, but failed at that time to secure a curet. Mr. Duffie, however, commended me to his brother at Aberdeen. There I was more fortunate, and Mr. Russell, who then accepted my offer, was with us for many years. The work of the curing stations (then numbering ten) and other enterprises grew apace. The general supervision became a serious undertaking. We were involved in commercial enterprise far beyond what I had time to attend to. The Board felt that a general manager was desirable. Mr. Michx, who was then our Secretary, in 1893 proceeded to Aberdeen, and was fortunate in securing the services of Mr. A. T. Duffie, who, I am happy to say, is with us still.

The following note on recent development of the Donegal Herring fisheries gives the most salient facts regarding that branch of the industry:—

In 1809 and early years of the 19th century, a considerable herring fishery was carried on in the Rosses and at Killybegs. In 1786 near Burtogget a Government grant of £30,000 had been expended in buildings, &c., for the development of the industry. The herring schools dwindled away and the fishery came to an end between 1845 and 1850, but there was a revival between 1853 and the famine time.

In 1891, when engaged in the Fishery Survey above referred to, we visited the Rosses, and found at Burtogget a smack delivering a cargo of salt herrings which she had brought from Scotland. No local herring fishing was prosecuted. In that same year the only herring fishing carried on at Downings Bay was by a few yawls, who got 3s. 6d. per hundred from the local "cudgers." Two large boats that had come from County Down to look for herrings had had poor success. In 1892 the Congested Districts Board began to cure winter herrings at Inishow.

In 1893, when Mr. Duthie visited the Board's curing station at Downings Bay, herring fishing by local yawls and canoes was in progress. His practised eye at once detected that the herrings were of specially high quality, and some were cured at the Board's station.

In the autumn of that year Fisher Bernard Walker, of Hurton Port, was informed by some fishermen out line fishing that some "school fish," apparently herrings, were in Rosses Bay. He immediately provided herring nets, and applications soon came in for more, as the fish were being caught in fair quantities, and purchased and cured at the Board's stations at Inishow.

It is impossible to follow all the details of the developments that now set in. Under Mr. Duthie's care the Downings Bay fleet came into existence, and at the same time, with much less direct assistance, the Arramores and Rosses men multiplied boats and gear, and made the fishing in the district a success. At both Downings Bay and Inishow the Board were soon able to retire from the business of being buyers of fish, and the whole thing passed into the hands of the trade. So far the herring fishery was only carried on in the autumn and winter, but in 1901 the Board subsidised six large Scotch boats to try the experiment of fishing for Summer herring off the Donegal coast in May. This proved a success, and the local crews, who had large boats, soon joined in, and this fishing has also become a success. At Downings a large number of Scotch boats now come to the herring fisheries in summer and autumn, but at Hurton Port the fishery, which totals the largest in Donegal, is almost solely in the hands of the local boats.

For three years these local yawls had phenomenal fishing in Trawenagh Bay, in which land-locked lagoon the herrings congregated in dense masses. Local farmers who never fished before joined in, and some of these inexperienced hands made hundreds of pounds in about six weeks' fishing.

Though the herrings no longer visit Trawenagh Bay in quantity, the fishing in the open sea off the coast has kept up, and it seems as if the prosperity of the old herring times has come back.

In 1896 the Board extended the Spring mackerel operations by opening the fishery at Cleggan, County Galway, and later at Donoughan, near Slyne Head. Cleggan soon proved attractive to the trade and the Board was able to withdraw.

For three years the Board attempted this branch of the trade at Blacksod Point, but the expenses were great, and the fishermen fishing for them usually went south of Achill Head to fish; it was, therefore, decided to withdraw until better means of communication with Erris should be established. If this should take place a fishery from Broadhaven would offer great prospects of success.

Looking back on days when I began my survey in 1890, and the position of the Board now, we may say that we now know fully what we did not know then, the actual value and possibilities of the west coast fisheries. The problem now only partly solved is—How can the coast population be placed in a position to avail themselves of those fisheries? The question is almost wholly a human one.

FISHERY LOANS.

Since June, 1895, the date upon which the Board took over from the Commissioners of Works the administration of the Fishery Loan Funds, 4,210 loans, amounting to £82,054, were made for the purchase of boats and fishing gear.

These loans were made at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest—the time allowed for repayment varying according to the amount of the loan from two years to eight years, the principal and interest being repayable by half-yearly instalments.

A table is appended showing the total amount of loans issued, the amount of surpluses now outstanding, and the amount written off as bad debts.

The bad debts and arrears are principally in respect of the County Galway loans—the Carna and Aran districts accounting for £3,580 of the total.

In the Carna district, where many of the people live upon uneconomic holdings, the Board were specially anxious to develop the fishing industry, and with that purpose in view, supplied to the district under the loan system, a number of large boats with instructors.

The results of this experiment have been so unsatisfactory, as shown by the amount of arrears now due, that the Board have been obliged to suspend the making of further loans for the purchase of large boats in that district.

It should be borne in mind that in poor districts, such as Carna, it is impossible as a rule to obtain solvent personal security for large loans, and in such cases the security must largely depend upon the earnings of the boat. In bad seasons, when the earnings are insufficient to enable him to meet his half-yearly instalment and maintain his boat and gear in proper condition, the borrower is very likely to apply to the Board for an additional loan for the purchase of some necessary gear, and which, if not granted, may prevent him from taking part in next season's fishing.

Unless the earnings of large boats on the Connemara coast increase in the future, it is evident that there will be considerable risk to the Board's funds in continuing to make loans for so expensive a class of boat as has been supplied in the past—the loans in some cases amounting to over £500.

I.—LARGE FISHING BOATS SUPPLIED TO FISHERMEN ON THE "DONOGAL SHARE SYSTEM."

Seven-three boats of the Scotch "Zulu" type were supplied to Donegal crews since 1896.

Total cost of boats and gear and upkeep,	£27,500
Total earnings amounted to	62,840
Amount paid to the crews,	59,700
Amount credited to Fishing Fund,	17,120
Amount credited to cost of instruction,	5,285
Amount credited to cost of management,	735

Six of the boats have become the property of the crews, four were wrecked, and 63 are still being worked by the Board, the outstanding balance amounting to £5,660.

At the Summer fishing of this year, 55 of the boats earned £4,565, equal to £84 10s. per boat for a season of six weeks, and at the previous Autumn fishing the total earnings of 58 boats amounted to £10,000, equal to £180 per boat for a season of 13 weeks.

II.—LARGE BOATS SUPPLIED TO FISHERMEN ON THE "GALWAY AND MAYO SHARE SYSTEM."

Twenty-five fishing boats of the "Nebbie" type have been supplied to fishermen in Counties Galway and Mayo during the past eight years on the Galway and Mayo "share" system, and in addition three boats of the same class were sent to the districts to be used as "Instruction" boats, crews being taken on each season. Some of the share boats were also turned into instruction boats.

The total cost of the twenty-eight boats was £11,000—the total earnings amounted to £10,103, the payments made to the crews out of savings as their share amounted to £4,364 in addition to which advances for "grab money" had to be made which amounted to £3,653. The method of dividing the earnings in Connemara differs from that in force in Donegal, it being the custom in the former district to make an advance of 6s. a week for "grab" to each member of the crew. In a bad season when the earnings were insufficient the loss fell on the Board.

The results of the "share" system on the lines it was worked in connection with large boats in Connemara were so unsatisfactory that the Board decided to sell the boats under the loan system.

Twenty of the share boats and one instruction boat have been accordingly sold at prices which amount to £3,646 less than the amount outstanding on the share accounts. This deficiency is being written off against instruction in fishing.

Five of the share boats remain on hands, the outstanding balance amounting to £1,591, and two are still worked as instruction boats.

If the mackerel on the Galway coast provided as remunerative a fishing for the large boats as herrings do on the Donegal coast, the usual commercial plan of furnishing food for the crew and deducting it from earnings would probably have paid very well. The difficulty has chiefly arisen out of no one fishing on that coast being as good as the herring fishing in Donegal, and the expense of providing spring mackerel, autumn mackerel and herring trains for the boats to enable them to take full advantage of what fishings there are has run the cost of outfits very high.

III.—YAWLS SUPPLIED TO FISHERMEN IN COUNTIES GALWAY AND MAYO OF THE SHARE SYSTEM.

The Board supplied twenty-one yawls to crews in Counties Galway and Mayo as they worked on the Donegal Share System within the past six years. The boats fully equipped for fishing cost £1,187. The crews earned £2,075, of which sum they received £1,380 as their share, and the Board retained £154 for instructors' services supplied. The balance of £541 has been applied in reduction of amounts due by the crews for their yawls and gear, leaving a balance of £457 still outstanding.

Two yawls were wrecked, and the loss to the Board on this account was £52; while a further loss of £45 was incurred when four crews were dismissed and their yawls sold on the loan system.

The Board have from time to time made offers to the large share and loan boats of the Galway and Mayo districts, of the assistance of instructors acquainted with the Donegal coast if they would proceed there and try their luck at the herring-fishing. Some years ago a Mayo boat tried it, but unfortunately the season turned out a poor one, and after waiting for several weeks she and most of the other boats that came from distant places left for home just before the fishing began. This season some of the Connemara loan boats are starting for Downings Bay. If large boats are to pay, the crews must be prepared to go to where fishing is good and not waste their time and gear in fishing in places where the industry offers poor chances of success, even though such crews may be slower to leave. The Department of Agriculture have organised a system of telegraphic intelligence between all the fishing centres whereby the results of fishing at other ports are posted up twice a week during the fishing season, with the object of letting fishermen know where the fishing is best.

A table is appended which shows how, in the case of the boat A in Connemara, the facilities mount up.

The Board's local agent, reporting on this case, says—"The boat and gear are in very good order. He is a very good worker and never neglects his business when there is money to be earned. I believe his intention is to not fairly with the Board."

EFFECTS OF FISHING ON CONGESTION.

The conditions of life of the coast population, numbering about 175,000, vary greatly in different parts of the West of Ireland. The only feature in common is, that in most of the places where fishing can be prosecuted with advantage the land is more or less unsuitable for farming. Nevertheless, the population are almost all to some extent farmers. Take, as an illustration, the peninsula of West Cork. Here the land is mostly mountainous, but the fishing grounds in close proximity to their northern shores are very good, and the small farmers are all in comfortable circumstances, almost solely on account of the mackerel fishing. If we look again at the Rosens in Donegal the fact that from £20,000 to £30,000 is paid annually for herrings, and find its way among the coast population, makes it possible for a population to live in comfort that could not live in comfort, and such a number could probably not live at all, if this source of gain was to cease. Congestion being a condition in which there are more people in a district than the available industries can support in permanent health and vigour, not as is technically described as a condition in which there are more people than the land can support, I would say that such places are not now congested. Take away the fishing, they are at once badly congested, and there is little left to save the situation but migratory labour or emigration, unless some industries such as mining for the men and factories for the women should prove to be worth developing. The choice for the coast population in some considerable areas may be said to lie between fishing and migration or emigration. Fishing is now flourishing, but is it safe? Take away the American demand and the mackerel fishing in the first named district must almost close down. Should the herrings take themselves away for ten years from the north, the congestion problem might assume its most acute form. Fishing, no matter how good it may be and no matter how far it may tend while successful to establish a higher standard of comfort must not be counted on directly to solve the problem of congestion, but years of comfort coupled with education will no doubt tend, even if the source of the comfort should fail, to raise the standard of life and render distress less likely to occur, even if the only remedy available should be voluntary emigration.

If the mackerel and herring should fail, I do not say that all the advantages of proximity to the sea would have vanished; on all these coasts there would still be the lobster fishing and general fishing for local demands, and in the North there might be the salmon fishing in the sea, and everywhere would be the advantages of sea-bird and marmos. But the fisheries I have named are of vital importance to populations on these present scale.

If we now turn to what we may call the turf districts of South Conamara, of which the parishes of Roscommon and Cessarea are typical, farming conditions are bad. Remunerative fishing grounds are not conveniently situated; a large population has accumulated, owing to turf being in large quantities, free to cut, and there being a constant demand for it in Galway, North Clare, and the Aran Islands. The cutters fill a hooker for about 30s., and the two hooker men will come in Galway or Clare for about 35s. In fine weather this is a constant source of earning. Over 100 hookers are owned in these parishes, and the men are all good sailors. From the first days of our Aran fishing we have tried to get crews in these districts to take up fishing seriously, but with very little success, for the moment the fishing became slack these men left the fishing boats and went back to carry turf or cut seaweed.

While the turf industry was undoubtedly the chief cause of the large population, it is important to note that the facilities for carrying it on are diminishing. The bogs near the sea are cut away, and the cost of production is consequently increasing. The lace classes started by the Board are providing a new and important source of earning, but unless the herrings should come back to this coast in the immense quantities of a century ago, or the mackerel fishing improve, I do not think we have material on which to build up a large fishing community in that portion of Conamara under present fishing conditions, and consequently this district presents a difficulty. To migrate such people on to good land and remove them from the maritime resources that they have been accustomed to for generations does not present a very promising alternative.

MARINE WORKS.

The total amount expended by the Board on Marine Works up to date is £66,545—the number of works being 134.

These Marine Works consist of the construction or improvement of piers, boatslips, landing places, small harbours, and breakwaters, and the erection of leading lights and beacons.

Of the Marine Works 110 were carried out by the Board at a cost of £17,517, and the Board contributed £8,928 to works which were carried out by the Board of Works or County Councils.

A list of the works has been prepared according to counties, which gives a short description of each work and its cost, and the site of each work is shown on a map.

By Section 18 of the Local Government Act, 1898, County Councils were empowered to take over and maintain Marine Works carried out by the Board. Application was made to each County Council concerned, in August, 1898, asking them to take over the works for future maintenance.

There were 10 works specified in County Donegal.
There were 16 works specified in County Mayo.
There were 9 works specified in County Galway.
There were 13 works specified in County Kerry.
There were 8 works specified in County Cork.

Total, 50

The Donegal County Council obtained the views of their County Surveyors on the matter, from which it appeared that in most of the cases improvements or repairs were deemed necessary to render the works satisfactory, and Mr. Oliver was directed by the Board to inspect when opportunity offered, and report regarding the improvements suggested.

The Mayo County Council refused to take over any of the works.

The Galway County Council undertook to maintain two of the works, and they have at present under consideration the question of the maintenance of six others.

Rules and Regulations for the use of these works have been prepared, and a copy is exhibited on a Notice Board at each place. Local caretakers have been appointed to see that they are kept free for the use of the public, and to report to the Board in case the works are damaged by storm or otherwise. These caretakers are paid at the rate of from £2 to £4 each annually for the discharge of this duty, and a sum of about £800 is provided annually in the Board's Estimates for the payment of these caretakers, and for the upkeep of these works, including lights that within the next few years the Board have erected at—

Portnablagh,	}	County Donegal
Wyon Point,		
Claggan Head,	}	County Galway.
Lyon Head,		
Kilronan,		
Deer Island	}	County Kerry.
Brandon Pier,		
Darvaghoe.		

Some works were intended to facilitate the landing of food stuffs and general traffic, but the greater part were intended to promote fishing, and the sites were selected when it was evident that some fishery development would be likely to follow.

The work of the Board in this respect has sometimes been criticised on the grounds that it would be wiser to expend a larger average on fewer works. Those who hold this view have evidently failed to acquaint themselves with the conditions under which the fisheries of the West of Ireland can best be prosecuted. We hear less of this criticism now than we did at first because we have, I think, demonstrated to those who have gone to the trouble of seeing for themselves that the fisheries are in need of many more such works, and that the bulk of those undertaken have led to development.

There are places where a larger average expenditure is desirable, but the Board has generally found that such works must be left to the chances of special Government Grants.

Speaking generally, the costly works are needed only—

- (a.) Where special transit facilities exist; or
- (b.) Where the expenditure can create better transit facilities; or
- (c.) Where the fishing is so good that fleets of fishing craft may be expected to congregate, and where facilities for transit will consequently be provided as a commercial enterprise.

HERRINGS PURCHASED BY BUYERS OTHER THAN THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

SUMMARY of Reports as to the Results of the Herring Fishery during the Autumn and Winter Seasons, 1923-1926.

Name of District or Fishing Station.	Quantity purchased and sent to Market.			Amount paid to Fishermen.	Estimated Amount paid to Wholes in Local Vessels for Curing or Marketing Fish.	Number of Tons Fished.		Number of Men and Boys engaged in the Fishing.	Estimated Number of Local Vessels engaged in Curing or Marketing Fish.	Number of Boatsmen.
	Stripped.	Fresh.	Cured.			Large.	Small.			
On Divisional Boarding a Day. . .	Boards 24.	Boards 10 000	Boards 40 000	45 000	4 400	110	80	600	100	12
Barnes District. . .	01,614	34 456 and 8 000 sub-boards	373,618	180,180	13,562	10	200	1,000	200	18
Kennedy, Richmond, Charlotte, Hardy, and Marland Islands, Arrowsmore, Tynagh and Ardara.	Nil.	5,000	9,500	11,100	3,800	"	80	80	80	8
Marinebridge and Ballycotton (about one year).	Nil	11,600	5,000	15,570	4 400	"	500	1,000	100	7
Booby and Lonsdale, ditto one year.	Nil	0 004	04	0,340	410	14	17	300	50	8
Torfa (ditto). . .	Nil	1,500	1,500	3,840	510	300	80	180	120	5
Fishermore and Lismacrum (1895-6).										
On Males.	Nil	550	5,665	1 400	394	370	51	80	40	1
Clare Island. . .	Nil	6 112	410	2,500	800	13	60	510	30	1
Derry's Point. . .	Nil	Nil	300	500	10	3	300	10	30	1
Glenties. . .	Nil	Nil	1 17	10	20	37	14	10	N.E.	1
Lower Glenties, and Belanish District. . .	Nil	Nil	2 400 Crabs.	1,720	500	Nil	55	470	470	1
On the Harbour.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Belinbegga, Ann Islands (North and South).	Nil	6,371	1 420	4,350	560	Nil	20	331	20	7
Totals. . .	91,614	113,218 and 8 000 sub-boards	34 1,018	330,270	51,347	370	410	4 500	1,500	68

These figures refer to years one year only unless as typical of the period.

These figures refer to *stays one year only* unless
as indicated in the text.

LIST OF FISH-CURING STATIONS.

During the Summer and Autumn of 1905 stations for the curing of herrings or mackerel were opened at the following places:—

Tory Island,	Co. Donegal.
Downing's Bay,	"
Magheragallan,	"
Gortnacate,	"
Reabeg,	"
Magheracatty,	"
Belderrig,	Co. Mayo.
Porturlin,	"
Portacloy,	"
Mullingoreena,	"
Inishturk,	"
Clare Island,	"
Darby's Point,	"
Cleggan,	Co. Galway.
Kilmanan,	"
Kilmurvey,	"
Beandstone,	"
Doonoughan,	"
S. Aran Island,	"
Tully,	"

The North Mayo curing stations were not opened for the Winter Long Line Fishing.

SUMMARY of Amounts Paid for Fish and to Fishermen from fisheries developed by the Board on the Coasts between Galway Bay and the North Coast of Co. Donegal.

SUMMARY.		£ s. d.		
1. Total amount paid to Fishermen during Autumn Mackerel Seasons, 1891-1898, . . .	...	3,025	0	0
2. Total amount paid to Fishermen during Spring Mackerel Seasons at all Stations, 1892-1895, . . .	...	74,093	0	0
3. Total amount paid for White Fish and Herrings from 1894-1898, . . .	...	7,827	0	0
4. Total amount paid to Fishermen during Mackerel Seasons 1899-1905, . . .	...	45,121	0	0
5. Total amount paid to Fishermen during Autumn and Winter Herring Seasons 1895-1905, . . .	...	152,065	0	0
6. Total amount paid to Fishermen during Summer Herring Fishery, 1901-1905, . . .	...	35,000	0	0
Total, . . .	...	252,001	0	0

The amount paid in 1905 at stations developed by the Board and included in above figures was—

Spring Mackerel fishery,	£5,529
Autumn Mackerel fishery,	£4,809
Summer Herring fishery,	£12,700
Autumn and Winter Herring fishery,	£35,622

N.B.—In the one year, 1905, there was paid for fish in the whole of the Congested Districts in the Spring Mackerel fishery £79,315.

In the one year, 1905, there was paid for fish in the whole of the Congested Districts in the Autumn Mackerel fishery, £31,101.

In the one year, 1905, there was paid for fish in the whole of the Congested Districts in the Summer Herring fishery, £14,075.

In the one year, 1905, there was paid for fish in the whole of the Congested Districts in the Autumn and Winter Herring fishery, £35,622.

SPRING MACKEREL FISHERIES.

STATEMENT OF RESULTS.

	SEASON.														GRAND TOTAL.		
	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	No. of half-boats sold.	No. of boats sold.	Total amount paid to fishermen.
<i>Arctic Fishery.</i>																	
No. of Half-boats sold Fresh.	1,186	9,855	5,520	6,623	6,359	4,173	10,776	12,915	15,330	15,005	5,135	93,797	9,374	9,677	11,125	—	—
“ Barrels cured.	301	301	301	301	301	301	60	1,370	30	301	301	429	61	303	—	1,811	—
“ Boats fishing.	22	22	43	39	38	32	46	66	60	57	41	46	94	20	—	—	—
“ Men and Boys fishing.	390	391	384	396	317	172	204	339	369	300	393	387	368	230	—	—	—
Total amount paid to Fishermen.	2,586	22,217	12,194	13,667	13,667	11,106	23,800	27,229	32,849	33,666	10,413	20,413	13,776	12,209	—	—	221,506
<i>Chesapeake Fishery.*</i>																	
No. of Half-boats sold Fresh.	361	361	361	361	3,656	3,387	10,101	7,315	18,000	6,229	396	5,329	1,662	6,077	55,125	—	—
“ Barrels cured.	—	—	—	—	30	30	30	1,300	30	301	301	1,605	343	779	—	3,683	—
“ Boats fishing.	—	—	—	—	30	25	60	65	52	75	51	67	46	40	—	—	—
“ Men and Boys fishing.	—	—	—	—	127	120	555	320	300	340	100	220	202	399	—	—	—
Total amount paid to Fishermen.	—	—	—	—	6,735	6,790	22,446	15,361	32,411	12,559	1,194	12,159	27,965	23,470	—	—	225,128
<i>Dunbarton and Orkney Fishery.</i>																	
No. of Half-boats sold Fresh.	361	361	361	361	361	361	361	1,907	1,907	1,907	30	309	400	500	7,181	—	—
“ Barrels cured.	—	—	—	—	—	361	361	200	361	361	361	605	355	600	—	1,654	—
“ Boats fishing.	—	—	—	—	—	6	12	16	12	17	10	34	35	20	—	—	—
“ Men and Boys fishing.	—	—	—	—	—	25	51	10	100	200	300	55	143	94	—	—	—
Total amount paid to Fishermen.	—	—	—	—	—	6,100	6,850	2,000	2,900	45	12,000	4,142	1,470	—	—	—	23,479
<i>Black Sea Fishery.</i>																	
No. of Half-boats sold Fresh.	361	361	361	361	361	361	361	3,655	6,805	3,544	367	4,289	3,368	—	15,678	—	—
“ Barrels cured.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	252	60	301	301	60	64	—	—	654	—
“ Boats fishing.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	18	18	12	24	19	—	—	—	—
“ Men and Boys fishing.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80	90	120	180	100	80	—	—	—	—
Total amount paid to Fishermen.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,361	2,000	2,000	1,445	2,076	2,067	—	—	—	24,657
<i>Scandinavian Fishery (D).</i>																	
No. of Half-boats sold Fresh.	361	361	361	361	361	361	361	364	7,066	3,346	1,015	1,000	1,000	4,647	25,103	—	—
“ Barrels cured.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	361	361	345	120	225	—	1,642	—
“ Boats fishing.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	16	16	16	15	30	—	—	—
“ Men and Boys fishing.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	65	90	100	100	100	200	—	—	—
Total amount paid to Fishermen.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21,400	11,000	1,000	12,107	11,675	11,600	—	—	68,319
Total.															303,006	1,790	372,226
																	6,313
																	378,539

(*) This amount does not include £2,078 paid to Arklow boats in 1898. (Boat earnings are included in other years.)
 (†) Except 1900 the Scandinavian boats fished from Arctic.

MACKEREL, HERRING, AND WHITE FISH PURCHASED AND CURED BY THE BOARD, 1892-1906.

AUTUMN AND WINTER SEASON.

	SEASON.							TOTALS.				
	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Profit.	Loss.	Total Amount paid to Fishermen.
MACKEREL.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure, ..	No Returns.	No Returns.	410	No Returns.	No Returns.	394	327	1,792	—	—	—	—
Receipts, ..	—	—	410	—	—	1,251	327	—	1,259	—	—	—
Loss, ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	64	—	—	221	—	—
HERRING.												
Expenditure, ..	No Returns.	No Returns.	1,089	1,899	1,773	636	No Returns.	6,554	—	—	—	—
Receipts, ..	—	—	1,538	2,156	2,287	464	—	—	4,354	—	—	—
Profit, ..	—	—	—	257	514	—	—	—	—	373	—	—
Loss, ..	—	—	—	—	—	157	—	—	—	—	175	—
WHITE FISH.												
Expenditure, ..	No Returns.	2128	8,962	1,139	1,517	2,104	No Returns.	6,561	—	—	—	—
Receipts, ..	—	3,548	9,701	1,186	1,186	2,632	—	—	9,756	—	—	—
Profit, ..	—	—	220	—	—	—	—	—	—	299	—	—
Loss, ..	—	—	—	14	353	52	—	—	—	—	583	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,835	11,956	1,192	804	—

See the following Reports of Board for details of Profit and Loss Accounts:—

3rd Report, page 16,	
4th " " 13, 15, and 16.	
5th " " 18 and 20.	
6th " " 18 and 19.	
7th " " 28, 29, and 30.	
8th " " 19.	

MACKEREL PURCHASED BY BUTERS OTHER THAN THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.
SUMMARY of Reports as to the Results of Mackerel Fishery during the Autumn and Winter Seasons, 1898-1906.

Name of District or Buying Station.	Number of Excess.	Quantity purchased and sent to Market.		Amount paid to the Fishermen.	Number of Boats fishing.		Number of Men and Boys engaged in the Fishery.	Estimated Number of Load of Mackerel engaged in the Fishery.	Estimated Amount paid in Wages to Local Persons for Curing or Marketing the Fish.
		Pounds.	Barrels.		Large.	Small.			
CO. DUBLIN.				£					£
Malinbeg, ..	2	—	846	901	—	20	80	27	243
Feltrim, ..	2	28	1,373	1,603	—	16	68	43	427
Fota, ..	2	—	1,656	2,378	—	35	160	40	545
Fota, ..	2	—	1,368	1,207	—	24	96	25	481
Darby's Point, ..	1	150	18	46	—	10	50	23	15
Clare Island, ..	1	—	17	36	—	5	45	15	5
Blackwood, ..	1	2,028	54	257	5	18	80	28	105
Barry and Gungahill, ..	2	—	141	250	—	25	100	47	32
Enniskerry, ..	1	—	62	45	—	8	46	13	12
Enniskerry, ..	2	—	405	561	—	11	56	30	55
CO. GALWAY.									
Tulla, ..	2	—	1,272	1,438	—	48	128	8	261
Clasp, ..	2	24,032	6,487	21,081	—	22	112	60	1,515
Drumcliffe, Bannagh, and Turlough Island, ..	2	440	2,287	2,425	1	20	40	66	52
Roundstone, ..	2	5,080	138	1,521	—	20	78	15	314
Assa Island, ..	2	10,022	4,481	9,051	28	27	235	45	129
Chilman, ..	2	140	—	44	—	5	38	13	27
Enniskerry, ..	2	6,230	7,744	7,744	—	40	200	160	763
Enniskerry, ..	1	—	60	81	—	5	30	22	32
CO. DERRY.									
Derry's Bay, T., ..	28	—	216	216	118	20	808	278	18
Tory Island, ..	1	—	420	470	2	8	40	20	105
	42	24,149	20,495	45,151	136	281	2,078	292	6,722

STATEMENT showing results of the Area Spring Mackerel Fishery while worked by the Board for the Years 1895-98 inclusive.

Year	Number of Trawl Boats Fishing	Number of Boats from Non-compartment Districts	Number of Boats from Compartment Districts	Number of Boats from Non-compartment Districts	Number of Boats from Compartment Districts	Amount paid to Fishermen	Amount paid to Fishermen from Non-compartment Districts	Amount received by Board for Fish, &c.	Total Expenses of Mackerel Fish.	Result of Trading.	Observations.
1895	20 large and 80 small	8 large	118	77	4,622	1,821 11 10	1,376 6 6	4,129 1 1	1,977 5 0	£55 10 0 on hands at end of season do most expensable for storage of plant, &c.	The fishermen were paid the average gross price realized on this mackerel, less 10 3/4 per cent for expenses of marketing the fish.
1896	22 large and 77 small	9 large	145	15	4,528	958 16 7	695 10 6	15,589 17 9	1,126 0 0	£250 10 0 on hands at end of season do most expensable for storage of plant, &c.	The fishermen were paid the gross price realized on this mackerel, less 10 3/4 per cent for expenses of marketing the fish.
1897	26 large and 100 small	20L	175	20L	4,475	1,118 3 6	561	11,585 16 6	1,581 15 8	Loss to Board, £79 15 5	Fish were marketed on average terms at a price 1896.
1898	24 large and 20 small	21 large	208	20	50,776	3,825 0 0	26 5 4	4,326 12 9	3,577 0 2	Loss to Board, £500 10 5	Fished prices were paid for mackerel, as follows:— From beginning of season to 20th April, 28s per 100 fish. From 17th April to 19th April, 18s per 100 fish. During the month of May, 8s per 100 fish. From 1st June to end of season, 6s per 100 fish.

* Two Arklow boats had to put in to Killybegs during a storm, and their fish were perished, as they had no other means of marketing them.

† Includes £48 15s. 6d. realized by sale of surplus line.

‡ Includes £18 12s. realized by sale of surplus line.

§ £2.—The Compartment boats are included under the head of local boats. The boats from Non-compartment Districts were all Arklow boats.

BLACKBOD SPRING FISHERY, 1899.

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT of the Spring (1899) Mackerel Fishing Season, at Blackbod Point.

TRADING ACCOUNT—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	TRADING ACCOUNT—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Purchase of Fish,	1,503 12 0		Sales of Fresh Mackerel to English Markets (except at Blackbod Point),	—	1,695 12 0
Purchase of Ice,	155 15 0		Sales of Cured Fish: Mackerel,	319 8 1	
Purchase of "non-removable" Fish,	20 10 4		Mackerel (fresh not yet preserved),	115 4 0	
* Management and Labour,	505 5 5	1,660 12 6	Burbot (fresh not yet preserved),	49 5 0	524 16 1
EXPENSES—			MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS—		
Freights paid to E. O. W. Railway (Irish) Company,	505 18 1		Sale of Ice,	13 12 7	
Charter of Steamer,	220 5 0		Sale of Coal on Steamers,	9 5 6	20 1 13
Coal for Steamer,	24 13 4		By Balance being Not Lost,	—	954 5 1
Special Railway Service,	65 12 9	1,065 0 4			
Reverend Captain, &c.,	25 9 3				
MISCELLANEOUS—					
Subsidies to Arklow Fishermen,	50 6 0				
Incidental Expenses,	15 16 5	65 21 5			
DEPRECIATION ACCOUNT—					
Boats and Plant—500 at 25 per cent,	125 12 6				
Ice Buik—£200 at 10 per cent,	20 10 0	145 22 6			
		145 22 6			
		1,219 10 0			2,005 1 10

* Nothing has been charged in above account for Mr. Walker's services as Paymaster.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT—

	£ s. d.
Landings-plant and Improvements at Youngs Bay,	275 12 10
Purchase of Boats and landing Plant,	850 15 10
Purchase, &c., of Ice Buik,	100 15 2
Total,	1,225 22 12

ARAN, 1906.

RETURN showing Earnings of Aran and South Connemara Boats engaged at Spring and Summer Mackerel Fishing, 1906 (10 weeks).

Name of Boat.	Earnings of Boat.			Remarks.
	£	s.	d.	
Aran Lass,	302	7	11	
Begones,	40	0	0	
Bennie Maginn,	40	0	0	
Cousins Greenway,	25	0	0	
Greigpatrick,	50	0	0	
Connemara Lass,	90	11	3	
Conger,	31	7	9	
Daisy,	29	11	9	
Donella,	32	9	0	
Dun Aengus,	99	12	5	
Enterprise,	51	9	0	
Father O'Donoghue,	42	2	0	
Father Hartagh,	30	11	9	
Father Yarn,	47	10	1	
Paugh-a-Ballagh,	48	11	8	
Louisa,	87	4	11	
Lady Betty,	46	2	4	
McGorm Smith,	24	7	0	
Mary Anna McCann,	55	19	4	
Prize of Moon,	74	9	6	
Rising Swan,	50	11	0	
St. Eads,	9	5	2	
St. Columbkille,	48	6	6	
St. Ronan,	9	14	1	
St. Leo,	34	12	10	
Western Star,	75	19	10	
Total Earnings,	£7,505	2	6	

BOUNDSTONE, 1906.

SPRING AND SUMMER MACKEREL FISHING, 1906.

STATEMENT showing Earnings of Boats engaged at the Mackerel Fishing at Boundstone from the commencement of Season to 14th July, inclusive.

Boat.	Total Earnings.			Remarks.
	£	s.	d.	
Columba,	112	5	7	
Campara,	116	16	10	
Deregiara,	144	0	0	
Duffa,	120	19	6	
Erving Star,	126	14	2	
Fingula,	136	12	3	Ceased fishing 7th July.
Glasgow,	96	15	7	Fished from Boundstone 4 weeks only.
Independent,	134	12	3	
May Flower,	150	12	8	
May Joseph,	117	14	4	Ceased fishing end of June.
Pretty Polly,	109	15	7	
Ruby,	84	10	5	
St. Brendan I.,	94	4	4	
St. Brendan II.,	45	19	10	Ceased 7th July.
St. Teresa,	187	11	1	
St. Kella,	164	19	5	
St. Kevin,	144	6	7	
Shanrock,	94	1	8	
	2,119	15	1	

16th July, 1906.

TABLE SHOWING THE TOTAL LOANS ISSUED, ARREARS NOW OUTSTANDING, AND AMOUNT WRITTEN OFF.

COUNTY.	Loans issued since 1873.			Arrears (as at May, 1885).				Amount written off.			
	Large Loans.		Small Loans.	Large Loans.		Small Loans.	Number of Loans.	Large Loans.		Number of Loans.	Amount.
	Number of Loans.	Amount issued.	Number of Loans.	Number of Loans.	Amount.	Number of Loans.		Number of Loans.	Amount.		
Bristol.	31	£ 1,231 15 31	771	—	—	6	—	—	—	2	£ 3 3 4.
Gloucester.	1	55 9 0	78	—	—	5	—	—	—	6	13 12 11.
Worcester.	8	£ 3,115 14 7	887	—	—	25	—	—	—	4	14 0 2.
Gloucestershire.	36	£ 29,738 35 3	3,311	38	£ 4,131 1 1	71	335 11 12	3	£ 469 9 6	2	17 40 8.
Worcestershire.	38	£ 6,749 0 3	869	5	£ 366 7 19	39	73 5 0	8	£ 1,761 7 0	18	73 15 8.
Worcester.	30	£ 7,581 14 4	176	3	£ 61 15 6	1	4 7 0	—	—	2	47 15 5.
Worcester.	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	47 4 5.
Totals.	126	£ 16,101 5 6	5,825	43	£ 4,596 6 11	140	£ 252 1 9	29	£ 2,232 6 7	38	£ 311 3 4.

* On three of the Large Loans, the money counts more than one Loan has been issued.

† This amount includes a sum of £2,511 advanced since 1st March, 1886, on Large Loans.

TABLE showing how, in a case of a Loan Boat in Connaught, the Facilities mount up.

Boat. "A"—36 ft. Nobby.

Loans Issued		Repayable				Repayments to date—Season					Total Repayments	Present Amount	Amount Outstanding	Object of Loan
Year	Amount	Amount	By Yearly Instalments	Expire on	Half-yearly Instalment	Assessed due to 31st May, 1900	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
1900	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	17 May, 1900	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0
1901	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	17 May, 1901	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0
1902	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	17 Nov, 1902	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0
1903	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	17 Nov, 1903	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0
1904	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	17 Nov, 1904	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0
1905	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	17 Nov, 1905	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0
1906	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	17 Nov, 1906	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0
1907	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	17 Nov, 1907	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0
1908	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	17 Nov, 1908	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0
1909	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	17 Nov, 1909	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0
Total	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	—	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0	£ 0 0

The following Statement taken from a Parliamentary Return will show the General Result of the Arsen Experiment:—

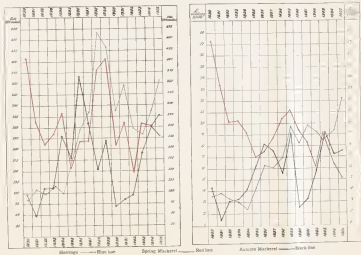
ARSEN EXPERIMENT.

RESULTS showing under the following Heads, the result of the Spring Mackerel Fishery at Aran Island, County Galway, for the Seasons 1892 and 1893 respectively: (1) Quantity of Fish, in Hundreds, taken by each Vessel; (2) Net Amount Paid to each Vessel; (3) Average Price per Hundred paid to each Vessel; and (4) Gross Amount the Fish produced.

1892					1893				
Vessel	Quantity of Fish in Hundreds taken by each Vessel	Net Amount Paid to each Vessel	Average Net Price per Hundred paid to each Vessel	Gross Amount the Fish produced	Vessel	Quantity of Fish in Hundreds taken by each Vessel	Net Amount Paid to each Vessel	Average Net Price per Hundred paid to each Vessel	Gross Amount the Fish produced
1	307	£ 40 6 0	£ 13 0	£ 40 6 0	1	381	£ 50 9 0	£ 13 0	£ 50 9 0
2	383	£ 50 0 0	£ 13 0	£ 50 0 0	2	380	£ 50 14 0	£ 13 0	£ 50 14 0
3	352	£ 45 3 0	£ 12 9	£ 45 3 0	3	365	£ 47 10 0	£ 12 9	£ 47 10 0
4	345	£ 45 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 45 0 0	4	360	£ 46 3 0	£ 12 8	£ 46 3 0
5	310	£ 40 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 40 0 0	5	328	£ 42 2 0	£ 12 8	£ 42 2 0
6	302	£ 39 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 39 0 0	6	300	£ 39 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 39 0 0
7	301	£ 39 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 39 0 0	7	300	£ 39 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 39 0 0
8	301	£ 39 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 39 0 0	8	300	£ 39 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 39 0 0
9	300	£ 39 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 39 0 0	9	300	£ 39 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 39 0 0
10	300	£ 39 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 39 0 0	10	300	£ 39 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 39 0 0
11	300	£ 39 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 39 0 0	11	300	£ 39 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 39 0 0
12	300	£ 39 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 39 0 0	12	300	£ 39 0 0	£ 12 9	£ 39 0 0
13 to 27	51	£ 6 10 0	£ 12 9	£ 6 10 0	13 to 27	51	£ 6 10 0	£ 12 9	£ 6 10 0
Total	2,605	£ 333 10 0	£ 12 9	£ 333 10 0	Total	2,605	£ 333 10 0	£ 12 9	£ 333 10 0

* This amount includes £10 paid as a bounty to each of the seven vessels Nos. 1 to 7.

Diagram illustrating the fluctuations in weight and in value of the Irish Mackerel and Herring Fisheries during the Years 1890-1905



APPENDIX VII:

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY SECRETARY.

I.—MEMORANDUM on Statistical Information available with regard to number, area, valuation, and population of holdings.

The following Statement shows the Area, Population, Poor Law Valuation, and Poor Law Valuation per head, of the Congested District Counties for the year 1901. —

Congested Districts County	Area	Population in 1901	Poor Law Valuation in 1901	Poor Law Valuation per head in 1901
	Acre.		£	£ s d.
Galway,	560,000	96,491	61,080	1 9 4
Lettin,	478,904	50,655	41,333	1 19 5
Mayo,	503,280	139,307	121,349	1 9 2
Roscommon,	522,192	31,695	41,179	1 9 5
Sligo,	347,897	28,041	25,229	1 9 4
Clare,	431	26	698	1 15 2
Cork (W.B.),	331,995	55,615	47,377	1 9 10
Kerry,	605,495	39,889	10,255	1 3 2
Down,	311,040	204,752	10,704	2 10 6
Total,	3,280,301	506,723	377,643	15 2 6

* The average for all Congested Districts (as listed in 1901, when the Board was established), was £1 to 6d.

The information as to the distribution of the land contained on pp. 353-5 has been compiled (except as regards one column) from the Census Returns for 1901 issued by the Registrar-General [Cd. 1150—1902] and from the Agricultural Statistics for 1904 issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland [Cd. 3729—1905]. It relates (except where otherwise stated) to the ordinary administrative county and not to the Congested Districts County.

The original returns are collected according to townlands, and are combined, in the Office issuing the returns, into Electoral Divisions, these into Unions, and subsequently into Counties. The information contained in the returns is published by Province, Counties, and in some cases by Unions, but not by Electoral Divisions. As the Electoral Division is the unit of congestion, it is not possible to obtain from printed reports the information about congested counties which is available about the entire county. It would, however, be a simple though onerous task, to collect this information from the office summaries that are kept in the General Registry Office and in the Department of Agriculture. Thus the particulars contained in the statement given above, which was furnished by the Congested Districts Board, have been obtained in this way.

On examination of the following tables it will be noticed that there is a very large difference between the total number of holdings as given in Table I. and Table VI.

The yearly Agricultural Statistics, from which Tables V. and VI. are taken (issued formerly by the same Office as the Census Returns, but since 1900 by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction), give inter alia the number of (1) holdings, and (2) occupiers.

In 1901, according to these returns, the number of holdings were 590,175 (A); the number of occupiers 543,236 (B). The Census Returns state that in 1901 there were 460,301 holdings (C). As regards the Census returns, I have ascertained that, though they are stated to be returns of "Holdings," they are really returns of "landholders," for if one man has half a dozen farms in the same county he is returned as having a single holding of their combined valuation. Hence C is properly comparable with B, and not with A, as might be imagined. The explanation of most of the difference between B and C is that the latter return is confined to agricultural holdings and the former includes labourers' cottages and gardens. Some of the discrepancy cannot, however, be thus explained, as that explanation can

only refer to small holdings, and there are differences between B and C as regards every size of holding, as is shown by the following statement :—

	Number of Occupiers holding Land in Ireland.					
	Above 320 and not exceeding 36 Acres.	Above 240 and not exceeding 32 Acres.	Above 160 and not exceeding 24 Acres.	Above 80 and not exceeding 120 Acres.	Above 200 and not exceeding 320 Acres.	Above 320 Acres.
According to B.	125,642	47,975	54,185	22,863	5,327	2,502
According to C.	115,760	47,614	54,501	23,056	9,860	2,549

These apparent discrepancies are probably due to differences of classification, a view which would seem to be supported by the fact that the number of holdings under fifty acres is greater according to B than according to C, whilst as regards holdings over fifty acres the position is reversed.

The yearly Agricultural Statistics issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction do not classify holdings or occupiers according to valuation, and so far as counties are concerned, it is obvious that the Census returns, being actually though not nominally returns of landholders, show more clearly the size of the problem requiring treatment than a return of holdings would—e.g., a man has in County Mayo six holdings valued at £2, £4, £6, £10, £20, and £40. A return of holdings would in this case apparently suggest that there were at least three holdings needing enlargement; whilst the Census returns more clearly indicate the situation by showing only one holding of £32 valuation. As regards the size of the remedial material that might be made available for relieving congestion, the Census returns might, however, mislead—e.g., in the case

taken above the Census returns would suggest that there was in County Mayo one holding of £32 valuation that possibly might be secured for the enlargement of small holdings; whilst in point of fact there are six holdings of varying size scattered over the county. If it were necessary the returns could, however, be adjusted so as to be actually as well as nominally returns of "holdings."

If the office summaries by electoral divisions are extracted and published, as would seem to be desirable since the present unit of congestion is the electoral division, the interpretation of the figures is more complicated. In these summaries where one man has several holdings in the same county, but in different electoral divisions, or has one holding which runs into two electoral divisions, the entire is allocated to the division containing the holding or the part of the holding of highest valuation; hence the figures in these summaries would not represent the actual state of things in each electoral division, as they would include in each such division land situate in other electoral divisions (of the same county), and would exclude land geographically belonging to the division itself. Thus the area, population, or valuation shown for an electoral division might be larger or smaller than the actual area, population, or valuation of that division. Of course, adjustments could be made rectifying this, but they would be costly and would immensely complicate matters. Moreover, the returns would then have to be based in part on holdings rather than on landholders, and this would, for the reason shown above, exaggerate the size of the problem.*

WALTER CALLAN,

Secretary.

23rd July, 1906.

* The Commission, having considered the relative advantages of adjusted and unadjusted returns of holdings and landholders, have decided that as regards most uses the unadjusted returns of landholders by electoral divisions would be the most useful. The office summaries alluded to are accordingly being prepared for publication without adjustment.

COMPILED FROM CENSUS RETURNS, 1901 (GENERAL REPORT, PART II.)

I.—TABLE showing total Number of Holdings and Number of each of Eleven Classes arranged according to Valuation.

Counties.	Total Number of Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS AND NUMBER IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not exceeding £4.	Above £4 and not exceeding £20.	Above £20 and not exceeding £40.	Above £40 and not exceeding £60.	Above £60 and not exceeding £80.	Above £80 and not exceeding £100.	Above £100 and not exceeding £120.	Above £120 and not exceeding £150.	Above £150 and not exceeding £200.	Above £200 and not exceeding £500.	Above £500.
Galway, ..	21,278	12,655	10,970	2,762	1,284	1,247	515	373	743	455	164	70
Leitrim, ..	13,104	8,435	6,368	1,735	754	633	307	309	334	30	15	5
Mayo, ..	23,732	15,857	15,620	3,280	848	660	297	458	593	508	48	16
Down, ..	14,606	8,607	7,761	2,098	695	635	304	359	447	373	50	14
Sligo, ..	13,491	3,713	8,808	1,817	880	794	293	183	318	146	32	22
Clare, ..	19,743	3,243	8,308	2,621	1,405	1,204	696	509	658	580	64	45
Cork, ..	62,738	7,368	6,622	8,758	2,845	3,734	3,364	1,523	3,303	1,743	326	141
Kerry, ..	32,868	8,484	8,354	3,474	1,427	1,545	732	567	845	320	20	17
Donegal, ..	38,733	14,812	8,266	1,677	1,061	996	526	302	463	377	56	16
Total,	305,857	73,443	67,236	21,621	11,363	11,660	5,832	3,507	6,828	3,626	693	486
CONSIDERED AS												
CONSIDERED AS	108,348	61,438	61,951	10,093	6,691	3,694	1,714	1,808	2,305	1,664	389	299
MEANS, ..	112,666	56,650	54,371	10,181	6,087	11,467	8,801	4,363	8,484	4,333	803	567
USING, ..	108,370	36,373	54,076	26,132	16,094	16,107	6,898	4,661	3,343	2,081	341	267
LANDS, ..	180,738	27,652	26,464	10,660	7,475	6,776	6,663	5,805	7,854	4,380	1,351	1,163
IRELAND,	618,303	134,193	141,462	60,147	34,707	41,937	22,964	16,708	28,706	18,108	2,630	2,403

II.—TABLE showing Total Area occupied by each Class of Holdings.

Counties.	Total Area occupied by Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO RANGING VALUATION WITH THE AREA UNDER EACH CLASS.										
		Not exceeding £4.	Above £4 and not exceeding £20.	Above £20 and not exceeding £40.	Above £40 and not exceeding £60.	Above £60 and not exceeding £80.	Above £80 and not exceeding £100.	Above £100 and not exceeding £120.	Above £120 and not exceeding £150.	Above £150 and not exceeding £200.	Above £200 and not exceeding £500.	Above £500 in value.
Galway, ..	1,396,781	206,569	278,902	308,868	65,513	333,146	67,728	62,698	148,027	168,264	87,493	207,507
Leitrim, ..	227,962	65,915	103,383	33,832	26,308	27,810	15,858	6,338	35,069	9,867	5,073	2,838
Mayo, ..	1,868,344	213,702	518,500	36,123	61,656	78,676	80,404	80,136	66,730	65,784	24,625	71,602
Down, ..	618,605	48,354	124,878	37,828	30,844	27,438	20,256	15,527	54,436	30,055	19,055	18,543
Sligo, ..	618,807	38,308	68,716	45,382	31,376	37,007	31,335	15,023	36,475	38,680	21,150	16,168
Clare, ..	710,728	31,445	146,223	136,646	73,246	62,346	51,390	35,832	62,567	64,061	35,521	45,611
Cork, ..	1,774,308	66,856	184,820	163,336	180,256	395,281	163,096	185,481	325,755	220,442	54,226	63,618
Kerry, ..	1,663,642	62,646	207,222	166,653	130,436	141,646	67,227	36,099	58,669	54,794	20,443	39,563
Donegal, ..	1,618,608	68,368	161,633	69,352	50,106	66,655	36,796	34,551	56,563	41,486	15,426	24,343
Total,	6,243,866	1,641,460	1,641,676	466,107	680,320	428,582	467,335	636,480	66,614	625,693	227,096	366,662
CONSIDERED AS	3,636,398	621,365	621,646	167,138	227,650	276,369	177,446	126,136	354,845	246,865	103,813	256,080
MEANS, ..	3,663,870	567,684	776,707	262,480	268,266	682,756	463,542	233,464	608,745	604,944	206,620	621,562
USING, ..	3,664,736	476,238	616,521	367,664	467,364	614,373	386,756	219,826	606,181	596,188	42,426	161,625
LANDS, ..	4,922,280	361,608	555,417	285,817	232,836	426,558	436,596	666,323	716,766	741,962	256,873	394,280
IRELAND,	16,776,444	3,366,656	3,616,363	1,606,616	2,366,416	2,016,466	1,656,146	2,806,666	2,166,169	2,126,793	766,666	1,466,666

III.—TABLE showing Total Valuation of each Class of Holdings.

COUNTY	Total Valuation.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS AND TOTAL RATEABLE VALUATION OF THESE IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not assessed for 64.	Above 24 and not assessed for 63.	Above 24 and not assessed for 62.	Above 24 and not assessed for 61.	Above 24 and not assessed for 60.	Above 24 and not assessed for 59.	Above 24 and not assessed for 58.	Above 24 and not assessed for 57.	Above 24 and not assessed for 56.	Above 24 and not assessed for 55.	Above 24 and not assessed for 54.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Galway, ..	488,040	23,320	67,150	34,475	22,525	30,915	37,340	16,445	16,114	59,220	26,760	64,860
Leitrim, ..	127,079	5,385	41,182	22,054	15,579	16,724	5,118	4,647	16,318	3,827	5,794	1,460
Mayo, ..	303,740	27,329	75,254	39,308	14,800	16,342	9,910	1,544	27,650	27,764	15,585	37,558
Donegal, ..	273,848	13,565	55,988	28,467	16,318	30,389	11,616	5,590	31,794	37,941	19,507	35,407
Sligo, ..	102,535	8,478	37,752	22,595	14,818	15,592	10,093	8,222	21,961	24,459	7,562	13,796
Clare, ..	248,869	6,652	34,908	25,619	35,557	34,793	21,474	15,680	45,760	36,890	18,737	36,296
Cork, ..	674,557	14,830	46,261	47,389	69,848	62,674	79,880	58,419	111,189	163,867	46,913	73,656
Kerry, ..	246,868	12,512	37,907	36,436	24,538	36,889	24,923	27,493	59,300	14,555	4,968	6,425
Down, ..	558,121	34,857	12,764	34,548	17,406	24,822	36,137	38,823	23,422	34,867	8,502	4,863
Total,	2,965,595	158,814	464,872	576,415	188,583	286,963	265,587	184,146	674,732	732,733	152,280	264,526
CONTRACTED, ..	1,381,891	86,366	275,480	135,618	41,255	67,785	64,994	44,967	147,667	156,220	71,587	105,123
MODERATE, ..	2,712,808	67,618	189,371	193,940	166,543	263,044	232,757	196,104	688,985	641,691	194,737	262,181
UNMODERATE, ..	2,655,856	58,712	121,820	535,770	264,289	369,840	378,818	322,615	487,342	289,596	65,085	158,818
UNIMPROVED, ..	3,181,848	64,022	144,046	327,040	187,599	342,912	237,204	170,677	556,536	575,433	89,761	119,266
IRELAND,	10,001,687	365,742	685,188	1,794,562	645,897	1,051,538	769,420	618,006	1,781,389	1,467,582	606,348	1,776,277

IV.—TABLE showing the Population on each Class of Holdings.

COUNTY	Total Female Pop. of Adult Total Holdings	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, ACCORDING TO RATEABLE VALUATION, AND POPULATION IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not assessed for 64.	Above 24 and not assessed for 63.	Above 24 and not assessed for 62.	Above 24 and not assessed for 61.	Above 24 and not assessed for 60.	Above 24 and not assessed for 59.	Above 24 and not assessed for 58.	Above 24 and not assessed for 57.	Above 24 and not assessed for 56.	Above 24 and not assessed for 55.	Above 24 and not assessed for 54.
Galway, ..	106,897	46,112	53,548	34,962	7,217	6,879	3,438	2,369	6,518	1,479	1,139	1,565
Leitrim, ..	33,835	11,938	30,329	9,754	4,848	3,179	1,939	618	1,336	586	585	185
Mayo, ..	174,380	76,272	64,855	35,343	4,966	5,921	1,951	812	2,000	1,795	960	1,546
Donegal, ..	81,015	32,564	30,608	12,814	4,573	4,365	1,728	1,626	5,081	3,127	1,024	1,642
Sligo, ..	68,440	24,721	22,217	9,458	4,185	3,863	1,157	2,477	1,545	875	754	754
Clare, ..	38,604	13,073	16,867	40,121	9,729	8,185	3,869	2,047	5,184	3,652	1,862	1,748
Cork, ..	528,651	84,967	30,660	22,525	19,354	28,918	19,662	19,065	36,814	18,601	7,614	9,660
Kerry, ..	127,877	45,204	34,939	77,462	19,608	18,737	9,180	5,490	6,342	5,695	799	1,366
Down, ..	149,661	66,737	49,913	18,425	5,906	8,013	3,240	2,159	8,362	4,606	1,564	646
Total,	1,346,868	509,945	348,852	124,180	66,751	77,790	42,184	26,810	81,977	87,158	14,424	37,680
CONTRACTED, ..	595,467	169,848	121,362	58,140	15,050	22,402	10,558	6,613	14,796	8,778	4,213	6,248
MODERATE, ..	1,044,462	325,626	127,785	79,378	34,672	75,118	49,754	30,838	72,285	49,129	14,568	19,837
UNMODERATE, ..	688,958	151,476	578,965	113,856	79,364	97,468	55,322	36,392	89,179	30,558	13,845	17,968
UNIMPROVED, ..	933,454	67,843	68,180	47,616	37,678	62,267	32,390	35,933	69,420	46,917	17,548	36,908
IRELAND,	3,864,324	1,054,757	1,018,126	296,748	136,713	165,287	147,686	100,186	238,276	192,815	61,500	84,898

STATEMENT COMPILED FROM AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, 1904.

V.—TABLE showing the Total Area, and the chief divisions of Land, in the year 1904

Counties and Provinces.	Area Scheduled as Occupied.	Total Area.	Extent in Statute Acres under—							
			Crops, including Woodland Cover.	Grass.	Fallow.	Woods and Plantations.	Turf Bog.	Marsh.	Buried Mountain Land.	Water, Banks, Fences, &c.
	Acres.	Acres.								
Galway,	564,669	1,457,536	389,091	711,349	296	24,228	126,646	65,606	109,967	75,666
Leitrim,	174,004	379,236	34,254	311,590	15	3,668	21,079	5,387	36,127	25,569
Mayo,	363,296	1,009,340	365,726	545,636	211	4,869	175,967	49,879	728,311	74,922
Downpatrick, ..	125,443	406,266	164,096	306,098	149	7,422	72,368	9,691	6,916	36,494
Sligo,	145,599	449,764	55,190	326,395	139	7,379	34,474	8,472	65,597	36,749
Clare,	41,911	769,329	346,446	479,912	47	4,366	96,521	8,566	79,699	42,222
Co. Wick,	377,866	1,109,951	419,468	679,381	864	29,006	25,637	61,456	209,944	60,146
Kerry,	669,991	1,161,540	369,029	591,512	371	34,479	47,864	46,446	307,622	47,212
Donegal,	321,645	1,566,929	518,603	667,569	334	6,159	106,532	30,096	308,646	66,672
Total,	2,699,961	9,937,458	1,862,617	4,471,649	5,637	76,616	794,799	302,636	1,433,518	663,766
County Wick, ..	1,287,275	4,519,154	634,376	3,681,559	769	27,476	640,974	162,021	554,769	226,568
Wexford,	364,966	999,097	1,369,339	3,233,717	1,964	161,261	159,674	167,745	799,699	515,446
Ulster,	614,662	5,527,094	3,869,615	2,669,079	4,106	47,336	319,329	61,664	699,666	309,446
London,	—	4,694,969	1,222,227	2,969,946	2,569	61,364	309,369	67,666	169,366	224,766
Total of Ireland, ..	4,699,961	20,364,725	4,662,617	19,996,079	9,266	363,116	1,115,346	456,366	2,266,518	1,633,222

N.B.—The proportion per cent under Crops, in Grass, &c., is shown on page 36, Agricultural Statistics, 1904; the Acreage under each Crop is shown on pages 34 and 35, and the Produce on pages 36 and 37; Statistics as to Live Stock are shown on pages 86 and 87.

VI.—TABLE showing the Number of Holdings and the Number of various-sized Holdings in 1904

Counties and Provinces.	Total No. of Holdings.	Number of Holdings in each County and Province.							
		Not exceeding 1 Acre.	Above 1 and not exceeding 5 Acres.	Above 5 and not exceeding 10 Acres.	Above 10 and not exceeding 20 Acres.	Above 20 and not exceeding 50 Acres.	Above 50 and not exceeding 100 Acres.	Above 100 and not exceeding 200 Acres.	Above 200 and not exceeding 500 Acres.
Galway,	25,196	1,199	4,469	15,415	4,531	3,686	2,266	1,361	796
Leitrim,	16,749	719	661	4,860	3,664	1,799	669	361	26
Mayo,	36,699	1,669	3,366	16,575	9,772	2,571	1,669	796	674
Downpatrick, ..	31,555	967	5,777	5,625	5,579	5,747	966	321	271
Sligo,	16,767	966	1,467	4,445	4,369	3,669	779	269	125
Clare,	36,349	1,767	1,661	3,967	4,761	3,664	2,769	666	369
Co. Wick,	46,662	6,667	6,669	4,764	3,311	6,669	6,662	1,266	776
Kerry,	31,666	7,667	2,119	3,165	3,666	2,567	3,169	1,662	679
Donegal,	31,961	1,674	3,774	10,661	5,669	4,196	2,196	1,666	366
Total,	336,714	29,662	54,367	66,363	55,661	39,666	34,196	15,666	3,666
County Wick, ..	122,661	6,667	21,229	16,669	34,469	11,779	6,766	3,664	666
Wexford,	167,161	22,776	37,671	19,666	34,446	21,671	22,779	9,669	5,669
Ulster,	306,961	16,767	50,669	67,663	62,566	34,196	14,669	5,667	3,666
London,	136,366	26,377	11,666	26,361	31,376	36,196	14,666	6,666	2,779
Total of Ireland, ..	4,699,961	75,704	66,161	156,766	156,666	74,376	67,669	32,666	8,666

* It will be noticed that these figures vary very considerably from those taken from the Census Returns—see Table I, Columns one.

II.—RETURN SHOWING THE RATIO OF POPULATION TO VALUATION IN CERTAIN ELECTORAL DIVISIONS IN IRELAND, AND OTHER PARTICULARS.

This return is the first instalment of the Statistics called for by the Commission on 25th July (see extract from Minutes below*), and the information contained in it has been furnished by the Commissioner of Valuation. The return shows the total rateable valuation (1906), the population (1901), and the average valuation per head of population in each Electoral Division.

- (1.) Where that average is under 30s.
- (2.) Where that average is between 30s. and 50s., but is brought below 30s. by the exclusion from the dividend (i.e., the total rateable valuation of the electoral division) of all ratings valued at over £50. In these cases the average and valuation of each excluded area is given.
- (3.) Where the electoral division though scheduled as congested does not come within either of the above classes.

The total number of electoral divisions in Ireland is 3,692, of which 3,461 are rural and 191 urban. The total number of electoral divisions comprised in this return is 545, of which one is urban.

The total number of divisions scheduled in 1891 as congested was 429, of which 21 were then not below 30s. in point of average valuation per head of population. Since 1891 the average valuation has risen about 12 per cent. (owing mainly to the decrease in population), and of the 429 divisions, only 311 are still below 30s. Of the remaining 118 electoral divisions scheduled as congested, 42 are not below 30s. normally, but are when the total valuation of all ratings above £50 is excluded, and 76 are above 30s. even after these exclusions, and consequently would not appear in these returns but for the fact that they are scheduled as congested. The names of these divisions are printed in italics.

The non-congested electoral divisions comprised in the return number 116, and are distinguished by an asterisk; 57 are below 30s. in point of average valuation, and would, with others, have been scheduled in 1891 but that the total population of all such divisions as were situate in one county in no case formed one-fifth of the total population of that county.

The remaining 29 non-congested electoral divisions included in this return are below the 30s. line only after all ratings above £50 are excluded.

The case of County Clare is worthy of notice. Though the average valuation of a considerable number of electoral divisions was below 30s. in 1891, they were not scheduled, because their total population did not form one-fifth of the population of County Clare. Under the Local Government Act of 1896 the boundaries of County Galway were altered, and the electoral division of Mount Shannon (which had been originally scheduled as congested through a mistake) was transferred from County Galway to County Clare, which therefore became the sixth county part of which is "congested" within the meaning of the Act of 1896.

WALTER CALLAN,

Secretary.

26th September, 1906.

* Extract from Minutes of 25th July, 1906.—"The Commission having considered a Memorandum on the Statistical Information available, which had been submitted by the Secretary, it was decided that the Secretary should request the Treasury to sanction the expense that would be incurred by the Commissioner of Valuation, the Registrar-General and the Department of Agriculture, in supplying the Commission at the earliest possible date with the particulars given as regards counties on pp. 2-3 of the said Memorandum in respect of

1. The electoral divisions scheduled as congested.
2. All other electoral divisions where the average valuation per head is less than 30s. or would be if the valuation of dwellings and non-residential holdings valued at more than £25 were excluded.

The Secretary having expressed some doubt as to the possibility of obtaining the particulars for the exclusions referred to, authority was given him to vary the terms of the return required as far as was necessary."

The Secretary subsequently ascertained that the Commissioner of Valuation could not from his books very accurately distinguish dwellings from other lands, and had no information as to whether holdings were residential or non-residential. With the Chairman's approval, therefore, the nature of the exclusions were varied, and Treasury sanction has accordingly been asked for the proposed returns in respect of the following electoral divisions:—

1. Those scheduled as congested.
2. Those where the valuation is less than 30s. irrespective of the number of the inhabitants of the county living in these divisions.
3. Those where the valuation is between 30s. and 50s., but would be below 30s. if the total valuation of the holdings therein valued at over £20 were deducted from the total valuations of the divisions."

COUNTY OF GALWAY.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE No. 1.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1901.	Popula- tion, (1901).	Average Valuation per head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population in more than one electoral division, if more than one division is more than one electoral division.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED HOUSES		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
	E. S. S.		E. S. S.	E. S. S.	A. B. P.	E. S. S.	
Total of Rural District.	26,714 25 4	18,634	5 21 3				

RURAL DISTRICT OF CLIFDEN.

Bannewell.	1,124 30 4	1,171	9 55 5	—	—	—	
Cligga.	508 5 4	528	1 5 1	—	—	—	
Cliffen.	2,442 5 8	2,475	1 5 5	—	—	—	
Doonalongham.	642 5 4	565	1 5 5	—	—	—	
Errillanona.	658 37 4	190	0 15 11	—	—	—	
Illoo.	128 1 4	337	4 7 0	—	—	—	
Inishboola.	595 51 0	884	0 13 4	—	—	—	
Keshbeg.	1,245 25 4	2,617	0 13 3	—	—	—	
Mayna.	1,257 5 4	974	1 5 2	—	—	—	
Owenagorta.	493 1 4	280	0 2 30	—	—	—	
Trayle.	1,149 5 4	2,640	1 4 7	—	—	—	
Trandona.	1,275 7 4	1,360	0 17 5	—	—	—	
Wheara.	508 25 4	1,305	0 12 11	—	—	—	
Wheara.	728 1 4	1,325	0 12 1	—	—	—	
Ballynashill.	1,553 5 4	350	1 12 11	1 3 3	350 7 31 254 1 25 127 3 31	65 10 0 75 5 0 75 5 0	
*Dunoon.	548 11 4	317	0 5 3	1 7 5	450 7 31 31 0 25	55 4 0 35 3 4	Railway and Station.
Corbisherry.	687 0 4	611	1 10 3	1 7 11	1,037 1 5	56 5 4	
*Derryvagh.	425 19 4	206	2 1 8	0 27 4	—	159 0 4	Salmon Fishery
Derryon.	611 11 4	627	1 12 4	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	22,046 0 4	18,758	1 0 2	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF GALWAY.

Annaghdown.	1,670 3 0	3,013	1 5 1	—	—	—	
Farbesh.	549 5 4	528	1 4 2	—	—	—	
Inishmore.	1,694 5 4	3,803	0 11 5	—	—	—	
Kilbourne.	986 3 4	1,720	0 25 4	—	—	—	
Kilbourne.	685 30 4	977	0 24 1	—	—	—	
Scarna.	788 30 4	1,345	0 15 0	—	—	—	
Shes-na-na.	507 0 4	545	1 5 5	—	—	—	
Spiddal.	507 0 4	545	0 15 9	—	—	—	
*Gurranmore.	1,377 4 4	731	1 18 1	1 0 2	371 5 2 351 3 7 254 2 8	48 5 6 127 0 0 156 0 8	
*Gurranmore.	1,720 11 0	503	1 15 11	1 0 8	356 5 0 301 3 35 280 5 25 267 1 31 247 1 5	81 11 4 53 19 0 52 15 0 38 0 8 108 4 6	
*Gurranmore.	1,305 5 0	677	1 18 8	1 4 0	674 1 7 577 2 8 555 2 35 545 4 24 489 2 31	281 3 4 38 0 0 40 0 0 57 15 4 35 15 4	
Moore.	1,601 12 0	1,603	1 12 0	1 7 2	214 3 35 211 2 29 202 0 29	51 30 4 50 15 0 115 14 4	
Mayfield.	1,161 3 0	865	1 13 1	1 3 1	435 3 39 32 1 25 108 1 5	73 16 0 35 11 0 22 15 0	Railway and Station.
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	21,425 5 4	8,201	2 4 2	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	43,471 12 0	26,959	1 14 30	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF GALWAY—continued.

RURAL DISTRICT OF GLENNAMADHY.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Est. able Valuation, 1906	Popula- tion (Census, 1901)	Average Valuation per head of Population	Average Valuation per head of Population on basis of census return, 1901, but using 1906 and 1901 values over 100 are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED HOLDINGS.		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
	A. R. P.	S. D.	S. D.	S. D.	A. R. P.	S. D.	
Boynemagh, . . .	312 16 0	470	1 4 2	—	—	—	
Glennamaddy, . .	1,119 30 4	1,735	1 4 5	—	—	—	
Island, . . .	1,209 1 0	1,835	1 3 7	—	—	—	
Isabrook, . . .	1,591 0 0	1,447	1 1 21	—	—	—	
Templeloghan, . .	1,524 1 0	1,825	1 7 2	—	—	—	
Dallanabock, . . .	1,208 12 0	681	1 11 7	1 0 16	364 2 0 220 0 3	55 12 0 249 0 0	
*Clonsilla, . . .	1,429 1 0	715	2 0 1	1 4 21	523 1 5 374 0 35 156 0 3 186 2 8 139 1 25	352 0 0 84 10 0 60 0 0 73 0 0 73 0 0	
*Crugg, . . .	1,718 11 0	1,174	2 7 4	1 2 2	540 5 25 143 0 25 339 0 12 154 1 4 181 7 0 317 0 35 44 0 0 265 0 25 312 0 50 295 0 0	130 27 0 73 0 0 129 31 0 70 5 0 170 0 0 30 0 0 223 11 0 126 12 0 70 0 0 263 0 0	* Area included in small planning, valuation is in different occa- sions.
*Carrigrohane, . .	1,155 0 0	460	2 5 5	1 0 0	550 2 2 334 1 21 1,013 0 50 154 0 25	100 16 0 234 15 0 501 0 0 70 0 0	
Ellisown, . . .	1,876 0 0	1,930	1 10 0	1 4 0	119 1 15 562 0 55 374 0 25	24 2 0 754 10 0 155 0 0	
*Kilnashagh, . . .	1,150 0 0	581	2 0 4	1 2 0	502 2 54 212 2 0 147 0 25 537 1 35 540 1 25 367 1 35	124 10 0 70 0 0 70 0 0 71 7 0 71 7 0 141 0 0	
*Scratt, . . .	1,142 30 0	600	2 0 4	0 10 12	100 0 50 202 2 14 379 0 25 350 7 0 308 0 1 508 2 19 431 0 50 294 0 35	22 0 0 85 15 0 80 0 0 80 0 0 110 0 0 214 0 0 45 27 0 125 00 0	
*Shankill, . . .	1,211 0 0	670	2 0 1	1 0 5	182 0 0 101 1 0 129 1 25 527 2 4 781 2 0 220 0 0	111 0 0 306 0 0 90 0 0 162 10 0 85 0 0 70 0 0	
*Tobersack, . . .	1,158 0 0	830	2 1 11	1 0 0	330 0 30 454 1 55 379 0 25 317 2 0 350 2 12 158 0 5 148 2 12	252 0 0 279 2 0 79 10 0 70 0 0 200 0 0 70 0 0	
*Tobersown, . . .	2,080 17 0	968	2 0 4	1 0 2	377 0 13 253 1 2 10 0 0 350 2 35 155 0 4 220 2 27 379 2 31	117 0 0 117 0 0 30 0 0 55 0 0 200 0 0 127 0 0 149 0 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions, . .	6,061 13 0	2,685	0 5 0	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District,	32,661 2 0	16,577	1 10 0	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF GORT.

Total of Rural District,	42,200 2 0	12,286	2 10 0	—
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COUNTY OF GALWAY—continued.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Value, 1901	Popu- lation, 1901	Average Value per Head of Population	Average Value per Head of Population in other divisions normally between 20, and 50, when all Valuations over 125 are omitted.	AREA AND VALUATION OF ENCLOSED HOLDINGS.		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
Barrymore, . . .	224 15 0	472	0 16 8	—	—	—	
Longatone, . . .	295 8 0	323	0 15 11	—	—	—	
Woodfork, . . .	1,075 10 4	870	1 4 30	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	35,128 12 4	18,895	4 1 5	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District,	36,801 0 0	20,125	2 56 5	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF MOUNTBELLEW.

Crookna, . . .	1,697 9 9	1,285	1 3 1	—	—	—	
Wolfe, . . .	3,228 7 8	1,190	1 27 3	1 4 5	<div> <div>310 1 12</div> <div>111 6 22</div> <div>327 0 30</div> <div>222 1 55</div> <div>407 0 29</div> <div>169 1 34</div> </div>	<div> <div>89 5 6</div> <div>85 4 6</div> <div>275 16 6</div> <div>160 9 0</div> <div>515 17 0</div> <div>65 8 0</div> </div>	
Dunboy, . . .	1,538 8 0	800	2 5 8	1 6 1	<div> <div>200 1 30</div> <div>379 2 27</div> <div>255 3 17</div> <div>112 1 9</div> <div>182 6 0</div> <div>158 1 30</div> </div>	<div> <div>46 30 2</div> <div>19 6 8</div> <div>38 5 6</div> <div>53 15 6</div> <div>165 9 6</div> <div>122 9 0</div> </div>	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	25,683 16 8	18,895	3 6 0	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District,	40,781 25 8	18,895	3 58 1	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF OUGHTERARD.

Carra, . . .	227 18 0	800	0 3 8	—	—	—	
Conn, . . .	1,298 18 0	1,671	0 18 4	—	—	—	
Crespanna, . . .	1,053 12 8	1,380	0 3 30	—	—	—	
Cra, . . .	470 26 4	465	0 19 0	—	—	—	
Glenties, . . .	999 16 0	1,343	0 8 6	—	—	—	
Kilcummin, . . .	153 2 8	845	0 18 6	—	—	—	
Latterbrook, . . .	726 15 0	655	1 4 1	—	—	—	
Lettierama, . . .	406 0 8	1,373	0 7 19	—	—	—	
Magheran, . . .	2,777 19 8	5,013	1 6 9	—	—	—	
Rea, . . .	422 0 6	308	1 6 9	—	—	—	
Turkagh, . . .	804 2 6	1,474	0 31 7	—	—	—	
Glenties, . . .	3,319 18 0	2,629	1 15 2	1 3 11	<div> <div>225 4 28</div> <div>244 4 31</div> <div>265 1 6</div> <div>275 1 9</div> <div>500 2 30</div> <div>515 3 35</div> <div>218 1 0</div> </div>	<div> <div>264 17 6</div> <div>48 16 4</div> <div>51 13 6</div> <div>22 5 6</div> <div>16 0 8</div> <div>146 0 6</div> <div>123 0 9</div> </div>	
Lettierama, . . .	418 20 0	585	1 13 11	1 6 7	<div> <div>311 1 6</div> <div>25 3 6</div> </div>	<div> <div>81 6 9</div> <div>128 20 0</div> </div>	Railway and Station House.
Winnah, . . .	3,368 28 8	1,573	1 16 6	1 6 8	<div> <div>1,805 4 30</div> <div>8 0 0</div> <div>440 4 38</div> </div>	<div> <div>89 16 0</div> <div>16 0 0</div> <div>269 22 0</div> </div>	Railway and Station House.
Total of Rural District,	36,801 0 0	20,125	0 18 1	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF GALWAY—continued.

RURAL DISTRICT OF PORTUMNA.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Ratable Valuation, 1906.	Popu- lation Census, 1901.	Average Valuation per head of Population	Average Valuation per head of Population in same parishes between 1800 and 1850, when all Valuations over £50 are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED HOLDINGS.		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
Doon,	455 14 0	432	1 2 2	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	25,197 18 0	5,805	4 1 8	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District,	25,653 12 0	6,234	4 18 10	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF TUAM.

Addicks,	3,005 7 0	1,879	1 5 4	—	—	—	
Bellinac,	1,560 16 0	1,281	1 5 5	—	—	—	
*Abbey Wood,	3,209 12 0	605	5 15 8	1 6 6	107 1 11 870 3 23 120 3 17 112 3 6 228 0 16	102 15 4 54 0 4 22 0 4 78 20 0 52 6 9	Railway.
*Ballynash,	1,609 15 0	848	2 2 8	1 5 5	688 1 20 1 1 50 1 1 4 184 0 14 205 1 11 208 3 1 220 3 12	528 6 4 55 0 4 54 0 9 42 30 0 107 12 0 208 12 0 67 6 9	Railway. Doon.
Bennet,	4,200 6 6	2,790	1 24 2	2 6 0	117 3 17 37 0 12 104 0 4 130 0 7 178 2 25 172 1 4 142 1 3 130 2 20 118 6 29	25 16 0 22 6 0 207 3 0 207 10 0 27 36 0 27 1 0 27 1 0 27 1 0	
*Bilbrook,	1,701 7 0	907	1 37 9	1 7 6	187 3 8 250 0 2 140 3 3 130 3 4 120 2 2	78 18 0 121 0 0 90 10 0 65 0 0 55 12 0	
*Bilbrook,	1,501 15 0	106	2 2 1	1 5 10	100 3 10 140 1 28 180 0 12 107 1 0 200 0 15 211 6 4	67 3 9 65 12 0 20 3 0 208 4 0 207 12 0 208 4 0	
*Bilbrook,	1,701 1 6	555	2 2 1	1 7 12	420 3 10 17 6 20 415 2 20 247 6 10 350 1 30	205 4 0 20 18 0 20 18 0 200 3 0 200 18 0	
Levy,	1,200 7 0	150	1 12 7	1 8 10	500 3 10 110 3 11 100 1 30	80 5 0 81 12 0 76 6 0	
*Moyn,	1,045 8 0	370	2 8 1	1 3 21	100 0 20 200 3 10 115 3 4 220 2 4 200 1 0 273 0 27	70 15 0 204 18 0 61 3 0 21 15 0 202 3 0 200 3 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	61,918 20 0	19,625	2 20 11	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District,	77,671 18 0	20,924	2 20 2	—	—	—	
PERCENT OF TOTAL DISTRICT IN COUNTY.	60,121 5 0	17,639	2 18 8	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF LEITHRIM.
RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLINAMORE.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Value, 1906.	Popu- lation, (Census, 1901)	Average Valuation per head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population 12 years formerly between 50s. and 50s. when all Valuations over 50s. are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED HOLDINGS.		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	
Drumcuddy North.	302 16 0	840	1 4 3	—	—	—	
Coughlinagh.	316 11 0	728	1 4 5	—	—	—	
Stralaghty.	000 8 0	985	0 7 5	—	—	—	
Clonville.	1,018 16 0	1,334	1 12 2	—	—	—	
Drumcuddy South.	510 10 0	107	1 12 2	—	—	—	
Grangelyon.	1,412 16 0	103	1 12 7	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	3,579 12 0	4,183	2 11 7	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	17,202 12 0	9,807	1 12 2	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF CARRICK-ON-SHANNON No. 1.

Drumcuddy East.	448 5 0	415	1 6 11	—	—	—	
Edinabed.	903 8 0	678	1 3 11	—	—	—	
Tuam.	1,196 4 0	805	1 5 00	—	—	—	
Aghacashel.	435 5 0	312	1 15 0	1 4 4	206 2 32	100 10 0	
Termoncreech.	1,113 12 0	720	1 15 1	1 9 9	115 1 32	51 10 0	
Drumcuddy West.	000 8 0	312	1 12 0	—	—	—	
Grangelyon.	1,113 16 0	1,009	1 12 2	—	—	—	
Meke.	1,412 16 0	840	1 12 7	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	11,116 16 0	7,980	2 8 4	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	26,617 8 0	19,809	2 0 11	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF KINLOUGH.

Aghacashel.	1,196 16 0	805	1 11 2	1 5 11	80 1 32	36 10 0	
Tullaghan.	1,011 4 0	1,280	1 11 0	1 7 2	47 4 8 202 2 32	50 10 0 112 10 0 61 6 0	Fishery and Booms.
Aghacashel.	435 5 0	312	1 15 0	—	—	—	
Termoncreech.	1,113 12 0	720	1 15 1	—	—	—	
Meke.	1,412 16 0	840	1 12 7	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	3,956 1 0	3,961	1 12 2	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	4,350 2 0	5,221	1 12 4	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF MANORHAMILTON.

Arigna.	111 15 0	173	1 3 6	—	—	—	
Clonsilla.	1,011 12 0	728	1 5 0	—	—	—	
Garraugh.	1,170 12 0	1,003	1 1 5	—	—	—	
Oteasill.	315 5 0	404	0 7 7	—	—	—	
Edinaclosh.	1,011 12 0	1,100	1 9 8	—	—	—	
Measaclosh.	2,405 12 0	1,011	1 9 7	—	—	—	
Glenties.	1,113 12 0	202	1 12 2	—	—	—	
Edinaclosh.	1,113 12 0	410	1 12 2	—	—	—	
St. Patrick's.	1,011 12 0	320	1 12 1	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	10,286 5 0	14,330	2 0 2	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	11,713 4 0	15,351	2 0 1	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF LEITRIM—continued.

RURAL DISTRICT OF MOHILL.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1900.	Popu- lation (Census, 1891).	Average Valuation, per head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population in 1900 corrected between 1891 and 1900 when all Valuations over £50 are included.	AREA AND VARIATION OF EXCLUDED HOLDINGS		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	
Cahoon	1,251 8 0	967	1 7 3	—	—	—	
Agham,	1,480 8 0	977	1 29 19	—	—	—	
Billy,	1,380 8 0	1,391	2 21 7	—	—	—	
Brooklyn,	1,003 13 0	393	1 25 5	—	—	—	
Cahoon,	590 17 0	554	1 20 3	—	—	—	
Cashmore,	1,115 3 0	643	1 20 0	—	—	—	
Glenn,	1,237 12 0	1,248	1 20 11	—	—	—	
Grange,	1,190 8 0	717	1 23 4	—	—	—	
Kesh,	1,239 3 0	648	1 29 8	—	—	—	
Shannon,	1,481 8 0	700	1 20 0	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	16,572 11 0	11,028	2 0 6	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	30,998 7 0	18,654	2 0 4	—	—	—	
TOTAL OF RURAL DISTRICTS IN COUNTY.	128,371 11 6	62,543	2 0 0	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF MAYO.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLINA.

Armagh East	863 2 0	1,133	0 34 7	—	—	—	
Armagh West	1,007 8 0	793	1 5 0	—	—	—	
Bannock,	215 8 0	190	1 2 9	—	—	—	
Berry,	745 13 0	587	1 2 9	—	—	—	
Clifferton,	1,620 18 0	1,399	0 16 5	—	—	—	
Lisnabrack,	645 8 0	586	0 35 3	—	—	—	
Sallymount,	1,600 18 0	1,521	1 0 0	—	—	—	
Seaham,	1,225 1 0	1,180	1 1 1	—	—	—	
Adrianstown North Ward.	1,008 8 0	1,384	1 10 0	1 0 2	380 0 12	122 8 0	
*Moorish Island.	1,320 0 0	1,521	1 12 11	1 4 10	307 0 3	104 10 0	
					281 2 12	91 50 0	
					113 3 12	208 8 0	
					117 3 12	171 0 0	
					79 0 12	25 10 0	
					19 0 12	65 10 0	
					207 1 12	14 50 0	
					214 3 12	114 50 0	
					214 3 12	114 50 0	
Doel	1,280 0 0	1,024	1 12 7	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	20,720 0 0	7,396	2 0 3	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	49,520 17 0	20,148	2 0 0	—	—	—	

URBAN DISTRICT OF BALLINA.

Armagh South Urban.	1,808 18 0	1,875	1 7 16	—	—	—	
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RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLINROBE.

Ballybally,	663 13 0	1,093	0 0 5	—	—	—	
Ballyvaughan,	892 8 0	828	0 36 3	—	—	—	
Cappachan,	822 8 0	776	1 1 4	—	—	—	
Glenties,	1,220 10 0	1,188	0 0 7	—	—	—	
Portlough,	1,807 10 0	1,180	1 30 8	1 0 1	835 2 12	30 50 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	85,648 18 0	40,761	2 0 4	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	69,738 8 0	31,535	2 11 2	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF MAYO—continued

RURAL DISTRICT OF BELMULLET

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rural Valuation 1895	Popu- lation (1891, 1901).	Average Valuation per head of Population	Average Valuation per head of Population in 1891 normality between 1891 and 1901 when all Valuations over 100 are included.	AREA AND VALUATION OF FOURISH HOLDINGS		INCREASE
					Area	Valuation	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A R P	£ s. d.	
Ballyvaughan,	438 12 0	330	0 13 7	—	—	—	
Ballyvaughan,	536 2 0	350	0 15 2	—	—	—	
Beldale,	1,081 12 0	7,034	0 15 11	—	—	—	
Ballyvaughan North,	1,588 2 0	1,204	1 4 0	—	—	—	
Ballyvaughan South,	1,319 21 0	1,055	1 2 2	—	—	—	
Beldale,	512 10 0	400	0 12 11	—	—	—	
Beldale,	681 8 0	500	0 13 7	—	—	—	
Beldale,	458 4 0	365	1 2 6	—	—	—	
Beldale,	536 8 0	400	0 13 10	—	—	—	
Beldale,	491 30 0	375	0 12 8	—	—	—	
Beldale,	515 14 0	3,648	0 18 8	—	—	—	
Beldale,	300 21 0	475	0 12 8	—	—	—	
Beldale,	128 10 0	100	1 2 1	—	—	—	
Beldale,	107 5 0	1,041	0 5 0	—	—	—	
Beldale,	515 10 0	371	1 3 5	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District,	10,042 0 0	42,545	0 13 10				

RURAL DISTRICT OF CASTLEBAR.

Adelphi,	1,057 12 0	1,722	1 2 11	—	—	—	
Ballyvaughan,	1,215 6 0	993	1 4 10	—	—	—	
Beldale,	2,445 2 0	2,445	1 2 0	—	—	—	
Beldale,	1,069 5 0	1,179	0 12 11	—	—	—	
Beldale,	1,421 8 0	1,330	1 2 4	—	—	—	
Beldale,	692 15 0	398	1 2 10	—	—	—	
Beldale,	1,830 19 0	1,700	0 12 1	—	—	—	
Beldale,	1,064 7 0	1,120	1 4 7	—	—	—	
*Beldale,	1,596 7 0	645	2 5 0	1 2 0	174 0 0 201 0 11 183 0 17 225 1 17 217 0 22 150 0 24 161 0 21 167 0 25 171 0 19	32 10 0 218 10 0 230 0 0 37 8 0 37 0 0 13 8 0 13 4 0 31 8 0 34 10 0	
*Beldale,	1,596 7 0	645	2 5 0	1 2 0	175 0 19 20 0 11 18 0 19 180 0 19 121 0 23 177 0 2 175 0 20 123 1 1 118 0 0	220 8 0 20 4 0 64 13 0 31 4 0 223 5 0 364 5 0 121 14 0 36 10 0 17 0 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions,	21,037 11 0	9,834	2 13 8				
Total of Rural District,	42,074 11 0	22,377	2 17 2				

COUNTY OF MAYO—continued.

RURAL DISTRICT OF CLAREMORRIS.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1904.	Popula- tion 1904.	Average Valuation per head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population in cases whereby between 40 and 50, when of Valuation over 100 are included.	AREA AND VALUATION OF ENCLOSED HOLDINGS.		REMARKS.
					Acre.	Value.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	s. d.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	
Ballykeena,	4,708 3 0	3,696	1 3 4	—	—	—	
Bekra,	3,592 3 0	1,820	1 9 4	—	—	—	
Cross,	1,618 4 0	1,281	1 2 3	—	—	—	
Knock North,	1,432 10 0	1,641	0 17 5	—	—	—	
Knock South,	1,795 15 6	1,659	1 1 1	—	—	—	
Loughanboy,	1,425 0 0	1,701	0 17 5	—	—	—	
*Ballykeewy,	3,841 18 0	1,069	1 13 0	1 8 4	<div> <div>117 0 20</div> <div>128 2 16</div> <div>188 3 20</div> <div>228 1 21</div> <div>250 3 6</div> <div>261 3 25</div> </div>	<div> <div>390 3 6</div> <div>65 13 0</div> <div>261 15 0</div> <div>95 5 0</div> <div>11 5 0</div> <div>18 6 0</div> </div>	
*Cusson,	2,881 1 0	1,083	1 10 4	1 7 5	<div> <div>149 0 11</div> <div>211 2 20</div> <div>260 3 0</div> <div>277 1 0</div> <div>35 0 25</div> </div>	<div> <div>30 35 0</div> <div>25 9 0</div> <div>128 0 0</div> <div>188 20 0</div> <div>21 19 8</div> </div>	
Claremorris,	4,536 0 0	1,411	1 12 0	1 6 5	<div> <div>516 0 20</div> <div>25 1 25</div> <div>12 4 20</div> <div>14 27 2 30</div> <div>165 1 25</div> </div>	<div> <div>185 0 0</div> <div>264 10 0</div> <div>227 9 6</div> <div>228 12 10</div> <div>69 9 6</div> </div>	Railway and Station. * Mainly in possession of Claremorris Board.
Claghmore,	3,209 5 0	710	1 11 3	1 0 1	127 0 0	75 2 0	
Cross, John,	2,645 5 0	1,581	1 13 0	1 6 2	<div> <div>87 0 7</div> <div>171 1 4</div> <div>186 1 20</div> <div>25 1 15</div> <div>115 2 25</div> <div>284 3 2</div> <div>190 1 20</div> </div>	<div> <div>55 18 0</div> <div>22 16 0</div> <div>27 12 0</div> <div>6 12 0</div> <div>54 9 0</div> <div>58 22 0</div> <div>14 22 0</div> </div>	
Edessa,	3,326 14 0	1,065	1 12 8	1 8 0	<div> <div>200 2 20</div> <div>149 4 2</div> <div>85 0 0</div> <div>120 2 20</div> <div>145 0 20</div> <div>275 2 20</div> <div>185 0 20</div> <div>120 0 20</div> </div>	<div> <div>58 11 0</div> <div>40 24 0</div> <div>119 20 0</div> <div>50 20 0</div> <div>74 9 4</div> <div>162 15 0</div> <div>130 9 0</div> <div>56 2 0</div> </div>	
Marston,	1,645 4 0	1,103	1 14 4	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions,	15,470 0 0	4,912	1 13 0	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District,	61,635 0 0	32,538	1 14 6	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF KILLALA.

Ballykeena,	325 12 0	242	1 3 4	—	—	—	
Lacken North,	2,611 9 6	1,581	1 12 0	1 7 5	<div> <div>228 3 0</div> <div>870 3 2</div> <div>122 3 0</div> <div>178 2 0</div> </div>	<div> <div>61 0 0</div> <div>77 8 0</div> <div>138 0 0</div> <div>171 20 0</div> </div>	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions,	17,002 12 0	6,103	1 16 2	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District,	20,009 14 0	8,104	2 0 0	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON.

RURAL DISTRICT OF ATHLONE, No. 2.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1895.	Popula- tion (1895).	Average Valuation per head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population in cases generally between 10 and 150 and all Valuations over 150 are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED HOLDINGS.		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
"Cromagh."	5,045 12 0	1,135	1 16 5	1 5 1	<div> 50 3 31 100 0 20 50 1 30 27 1 2 </div>	<div> 12 10 0 100 30 0 45 0 0 112 30 0 76 0 0 </div>	Excluded.
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	20,971 19 0	9,082	3 4 7				
Total of Rural District.	26,017 12 0	10,217	3 1 5				

RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE, No. 2.

Moore	802 3 0	604	1 9 1	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	9,645 12 0	4,024	2 2 5				
Total of Rural District.	10,447 15 0	4,628	2 26 6				

RURAL DISTRICT OF BOYLE, No. 1.

Ballyhenry,	500 4 0	673	1 6 30	—	—	—	Colliery & associated
Lough Allen,	809 15 0	713	1 3 5	—	—	—	
Almagowka,	719 27 0	445	1 32 7	1 2 9	35 4 0	225 0 0	
Urmon,	1,620 35 0	386	2 25 0	—	—	—	
Kilbrack,	367 30 0	550	2 10 3	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	30,214 12 0	13,661	2 12 1				
Total of Rural District.	40,542 15 0	16,565	2 13 1				

RURAL DISTRICT OF CARRICK-ON-SHANNON, No. 2.

Terrace North,	7,358 0 0	310	2 32 3	—	—	—	
Terrace South,	2,465 10 0	208	2 15 8	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	10,005 10 0	4,318	4 2 30				
Total of Rural District.	19,828 4 0	6,826	3 11 6				

COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON—continued.

RURAL DISTRICT OF CASTLEREA.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1906.	Popu- lation (1901).	Average Valuation per head of Population (1906) is given separately between the brackets, for when all valuations over 100 are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF RATED BUILDINGS.		REMARKS.
				Acre.	Valuation.	
Ariagh North, . . .	3,375 15 0	2,036	1 6 6	—	—	
Ariagh South, . . .	1,099 15 0	1,368	0 25 3	—	—	
Ballinacorney, . . .	4,919 1 0	4,267	1 1 3	—	—	
Ballinacorney, . . .	3,066 3 0	2,877	1 0 6	—	—	
Barthall, . . .	3,187 1 0	3,042	1 0 3	—	—	
Clonsilla, . . .	1,084 30 0	1,145	1 5 0	—	—	
Clonsilla, . . .	5,086 0 0	3,070	1 6 4	—	—	
Clonsilla, . . .	1,335 17 6	1,043	1 2 6	—	—	
Edwardsstown, . . .	3,330 5 6	2,813	1 1 2	—	—	
Farrington, . . .	2,041 0 0	1,969	1 10 0	1 9 3	56 1 25 111 7 34	10 15 0 13 10 0
Loughin, . . .	7,047 2 0	1,961	3 55 0	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	42,292 7 0	12,075	3 50 6			
Total of Rural District.	75,042 8 0	35,576	2 1 3			

RURAL DISTRICT OF ROSCOMMON.

Total of Rural District.	61,830 4 0	10,184	6 5 1			
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RURAL DISTRICT OF STROKESTOWN.

Booby, . . .	1,225 3 0	964	1 1 30	—	—	—
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	4,943 4 0	14,374	2 9 0			
Total of Rural District.	6,168 7 0	15,338	2 9 0			
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN CO. ROSCOMMON.	201,429 11 0	36,770	5 15 3			

COUNTY OF SLIGO.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BOYLE, No. 2.

Castles, . . .	2,285 11 0	1,515	1 5 2	—	—	—
Edin, . . .	1,367 10 0	1,366	1 3 3	—	—	—
*Templemore, . . .	1,269 1 0	865	1 4 7	1 3 2	442 2 24 111 3 37 244 3 27 362 2 10 53 0 25 125 3 37 302 3 3 119 7 56	129 12 0 86 0 4 15 35 0 11 6 0 28 10 0 30 10 0 40 16 0 60 6 0
Callinure, . . .	4,473 4 0	2,690	1 34 10	—	—	—
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	22,668 12 0	6,261	3 34 7			
Total of Rural District.	31,079 11 0	13,761	2 6 7			

COUNTY OF SLIGO—continued.

RURAL DISTRICT OF DROMORE WEST.

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Rateable Value, 1890.	Popu- lation (Census, 1891).	Average Valuation per head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population to whom normally less than 20s. and 50s. when all Valuations over 20s. are included.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED HOLDINGS		REMARKS
					Acre.	Valuation	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	
Kilnamoney . . .	1,786 2 6	1,203	1 5 2	—	—	—	
Donnaway . . .	1,375 3 6	884	1 5 5	1 5 5	100 6 0 117 8 14 117 5 50	55 00 0 55 30 6 55 30 6	
Outcomes East, . .	1,292 10 6	697	1 10 4	—	—	—	
Malinbegmore, . .	537 5 6	368	1 16 2	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	32,717 10 6	16,670	2 6 10				
Total of Rural District.	32,681 5 6	16,634	2 17 6				

RURAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO.

Clifford North, . .	1,152 0 6	1,637	1 7 2	—	—	—	
Larne West, . . .	2,247 11 6	1,637	1 5 5	—	—	—	
Clifford South, . .	1,706 15 6	1,515	1 13 5	1 7 30	100 1 16	100 0 0	
Larne North, . . .	2,651 7 6	1,686	1 16 1	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	73,882 15 6	32,329	2 3 5				
Total of Rural District.	81,892 5 6	37,315	2 0 2				

RURAL DISTRICT OF TOBERCURREY.

Achnary East, . . .	1,514 19 6	1,697	1 3 7	—	—	—	
Achnary West, . . .	2,255 12 6	2,312	0 15 6	—	—	—	
Achnary, . . .	1,554 15 6	915	1 7 7	—	—	—	
Kilnabeg, . . .	1,694 11 6	937	1 11 12	1 0 11	50 3 5	50 30 6	
Benade, . . .	5,064 17 6	8,062	1 13 7	—	—	—	
Breenacragh, . . .	1,254 10 6	637	2 1 5	—	—	—	
Clonacree, . . .	1,865 1 6	614	3 1 4	—	—	—	
Glendacree, . . .	1,637 1 6	615	1 19 5	—	—	—	
Theraverry, . . .	4,652 19 6	8,514	1 15 6	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	19,867 19 6	6,619	5 0 5				
Total of Rural District.	41,654 15 6	18,304	2 3 5				
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY	106,780 5 6	73,315	2 12 5				

COUNTY OF CARLOW.

Electoral Division	Total Rateable Valuation, 1905	Popu- lation Urban, 2005	Average Valuation per head of Population normally between 20 and 50, when all Valuations over 100 are included	Area and Valuation of Excluded Holdings		Remarks
				Area	Valuation	
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	26,000 0 0	36,335	2 1 2			

COUNTY OF DUBLIN.

RURAL DISTRICT OF DUBLIN, NORTH.

					15 3 12	5 12 8	
					22 3 1	120 0 0	
					3 3 1	140 0 0	
					12 3 35	51 12 8	
					27 3 29	45 5 8	
					3 0 0	20 0 0	
					13 0 0	40 0 0	
					30 0 36	15 0 0	
					17 3 19	60 18 0	
					20 0 33	30 4 0	
					30 3 14	110 4 0	
					22 0 7	41 12 0	
					29 1 20	335 0 0	
					34 0 12	51 4 0	
					7 4 11	119 0 0	
					30 1 11	52 0 0	
					38 1 34	20 0 0	
					17 3 11	55 18 0	
					35 3 5	30 0 0	
					22 3 29	230 10 0	
					44 3 45	100 0 0	
					41 3 45	25 0 0	
					35 3 4	200 5 0	
					23 1 8	54 10 0	
					30 3 3	25 0 0	
					30 1 0	30 0 0	
					20 1 27	30 10 4	
					10 3 18	110 0 4	
					18 1 40	18 0 4	
					30 3 11	100 0 0	
					70 3 11	30 14 4	
					45 3 19	70 0 4	
					11 3 11	200 0 0	
					30 3 9	200 0 0	
					48 6 25	200 0 0	
					29 4 30	70 0 0	
					29 4 28	50 0 0	
					110 3 8	180 0 0	
					60 1 07	13 0 0	
					25 3 18	60 0 0	
					30 3 2	50 0 0	
					40 1 8	100 0 0	
					30 3 11	71 0 0	
					22 0 18	50 0 0	
					18 3 09	200 10 0	
					40 0 00	50 0 0	
					13 2 23	20 10 0	
					30 4 8	50 0 0	
					...	20 20 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	4,000 0 0	10,000	5 0 0				
Total of Rural District.	31,000 0 0	10,000	5 0 0				
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	31,000 0 0	60,000	5 0 0				

COUNTY OF KILDARE.

RURAL DISTRICT OF NAAS, No. 1.

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1896.	Popu- lation (Census 1894).	Average Valuation per head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population in cases where a considerable number of Valuations over £50 are included.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED RURAL DWS		Remarks
					Area	Valuation	
*Dunpiper East.	£ 305 8 0	1273	0 18 9	—	—	—	Outreach of Kildare
*Kilmeagor North.	1365 14 0	545	1 22 0	1 9 7	108 2 29 115 1 1 121 1 37 117 2 14 101 0 31 42 0 13 31 2 27	181 19 8 20 0 0 27 7 0 80 9 0 41 8 8 22 3 0 55 8 0	Cumal
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	128,592 13 8	21,823	5 8 3	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	130,000 13 8	22,253	5 18 1	—	—	—	
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	579,308 1 0	50,138	5 38 2	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF KILKENNY.

Total of Rural Districts in County	263,348 10 0	65,800	3 0 4				
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COUNTY OF KING'S

RURAL DISTRICT OF TULLAMORE

*Glenn.	£ 660 0 0	1789	2 4 3	1 7 12	88 0 33 74 2 12 121 1 8 124 1 8 57 0 0 205 2 25 261 2 22 7 3 80 — 12 1 25 7 1 2 35 1 37 6 2 10 — 9 1 33 136 5 3 118 1 15 75 2 12 159 0 15 122 0 18 49 2 23	67 0 0 74 0 0 34 58 0 117 0 0 38 3 0 166 0 0 135 0 0 149 0 0 56 0 0 126 0 0 176 0 0 30 1 8 54 0 0 250 0 0 97 0 0 27 1 0 75 1 0 59 18 0 66 1 0 30 18 0 54 18 0	Splendour Factory. Working Factory. Railway. Mill
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	59,897 17 6	15,409	4 7 7	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	65,897 17 6	20,898	4 0 5	—	—	—	
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	268,545 8 0	61,297	4 30 2	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF LONGFORD.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LONGFORD.

*Ballinacorney East.	1,667 3 0	1,992	1 8 3	—	—	—	
*Ballinacorney West.	1,604 8 0	1,267	1 7 8	—	—	—	
*Droghda.	1,609 6 0	1,275	1 8 8	—	—	—	
*Droghda.	1,187 12 0	1,606	1 7 8	—	—	—	
*Kilkeel.	1,022 5 8	602	1 3 21	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	45,289 14 0	25,049	3 12 0	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	52,300 1 0	26,556	3 17 3	—	—	—	
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	94,229 10 0	41,805	3 8 12	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF LOUTH.
RURAL DISTRICT OF DUNDALK.

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1905.	Popula- tion, (Census, 1901.)	Average Valuation per Head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population in cases where between 40s and 50s when all Valuations over 100s are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED HOLDINGS.		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
Dundemullogh.	1,805 12 0	1,667	1 2 8	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	96,651 17 0	79,895	4 0 8	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	98,456 9 0	81,562	3 18 4	—	—	—	
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	100,261 9 0	83,229	4 18 0	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF MEATH.

TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	58,596 11 0	48,717	8 0 8	—	—	—	
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QUEEN'S COUNTY.

RURAL DISTRICT OF SLIEVEMARNOY.

Newtown.	1,205 4 0	108	1 18 10	1 8 8	101 2 16	121 9 0	
					30 2 20	24 8 0	
					35 6 14	60 8 0	
					19 2 27	25 3 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	22,890 17 0	4,006	3 14 9	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	24,095 1 0	4,114	5 2 1	—	—	—	
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	25,300 2 0	4,222	4 0 8	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF WESTMEATH.

TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	24,182 15 0	15,718	5 18 2	—	—	—	
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COUNTY OF WEXFORD.

TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	39,404 2 0	51,602	5 0 8	—	—	—	
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COUNTY OF WICKLOW.

TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	39,543 8 0	60,412	5 1 2	—	—	—	
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COUNTY OF ANTRIM.
RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLYMENA.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Value, 1905.	Popu- lation. (Census, 1901.)	Average Valuation per head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population in cases whereby household rate has been all Valuations over £50 are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED HOLDINGS.		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
	R. S. D.		R. S. D.	R. S. D.	A. R. P.	R. S. D.	
"Downing."	4,408 4 0	1,500	2 9 11	1 9 7	54 3 27 55 1 30 55 1 0 52 3 0 6 3 30 6 3 15 2 1 5 31 8 34 200 4 10 33 1 35 62 1 0	179 6 1/2 35 0 4 202 10 4 35 10 0 35 0 0 35 0 0 27 15 8 80 10 0 150 0 4 15 0 4 37 0 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	100,000 10 0	40,000	2 11 11	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	104,408 14 0	41,500	2 11 7	—	—	—	
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	107,816 4 0	41,500	2 10 4	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF ARMAGH.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LURGAN.

Mullingh,	5,800 15 0	2,000	1 10 1	2 5	50 1 15 100 1 15 60 1 15 120 1 15 200 1 15 30 0 0	31 10 0 61 10 0 61 10 0 100 10 0 120 10 0 30 10 0
					—	—
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	50,000 10 0	20,000	2 5 5	—	—	—
Total of Rural District.	55,800 15 0	22,000	2 5 1	—	—	—
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	60,600 15 0	22,000	2 5 2	—	—	—

COUNTY OF CAVAN.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BAWNBOY.

*Blackrock, . . .	607 1 0	713	6 10 0	—	—	—
*Kilnawley, . . .	778 3 0	556	1 7 11	—	—	—
*Kilnawley, . . .	800 17 0	607	1 3 5	—	—	—
*Templeport, . . .	1,612 5 0	1,200	1 5 9	—	—	—
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	18,000 10 0	6,000	2 10 5	—	—	—
Total of Rural District.	20,800 5 0	8,000	2 5 5	—	—	—

COUNTY CAVAN—continued.

RURAL DISTRICT OF ENNISKILLEN, No. 2.

Electoral Division.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1900.	Population (Census, 1901.)	Average Valuation per head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population in cases normally taken on 30th April when all Valuations over 50 are included.	Area and Valuation for Excluded Holdings.		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Ac. R. P.	£ s. d.	
*Derrykeenan, . . .	876 13 0	771	1 5 9	—	—	—	
*Derrymanagh, . . .	827 19 6	620	1 4 7	—	—	—	
*Dunmucklow, . . .	752 15 6	728	1 1 5	—	—	—	
*Kilbegg's, . . .	1,980 6 6	779	2 7 16	—	—	—	
*Deers, . . .	1,687 12 6	1,382	1 19 8	1 6 5	586 2 3	68 0	
Total of all other Electoral Divisions, . . .	2,643 1 8	1,799	1 19 11	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District, . . .	6,583 6 4	5,581	1 19 4	—	—	—	
Total of Rural Districts in County, . . .	26,119 16 0	24,915	1 17 16	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF DONEGAL.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLYSHANNON.

CUK, . . .	358 9 0	609	1 5 2	—	—	—	
Total of all other Electoral Divisions, . . .	23,073 34 6	8,578	2 15 6	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District, . . .	23,431 2 6	9,187	2 16 8	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL.

Bisham, . . .	— 778 9 0	1,826	0 15 0	—	—	—	
Bennyrien, . . .	1,887 4 0	532	3 6 6	—	—	—	
Cashmore, . . .	597 16 0	991	0 16 1	—	—	—	
Ennismore, . . .	1,520 14 0	1,520	0 16 8	—	—	—	
Inver, . . .	1,515 12 0	1,397	1 6 7	—	—	—	
Turnersully, . . .	645 16 0	700	0 16 3	—	—	—	
Templemore, . . .	— 553 16 0	667	1 6 6	—	—	—	
Clapher, . . .	1,449 28 0	247	2 21 6	—	—	—	
Deakinish, . . .	1,609 16 0	1,409	0 1 5	—	—	—	
Grasshill, . . .	819 3 0	600	2 24 3	—	—	—	
Harsh, . . .	665 28 0	445	1 21 9	—	—	—	
Lafra, . . .	1,166 28 0	1,767	2 28 3	—	—	—	
Lough Rath, . . .	1,096 19 0	864	2 26 0	—	—	—	
Meashanish, . . .	2,972 28 0	2,222	1 22 21	—	—	—	
Total of all other Electoral Divisions, . . .	15,112 16 0	6,862	2 7 5	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District, . . .	20,450 1 0	20,450	1 16 9	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF DONEGAL—continued.
RURAL DISTRICT OF DUNFANAGHY.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1904.	Popula- tion 1901.	Average Valuation per head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population in 1901 normality between 1901 and 1904 when all Valuations over £20 are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED HOLDINGS		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
Crossnacree, " "	879 35 8	720	0 25 11	—	—	—	
Greeshagh, " "	308 2 0	1,000	0 30 3	—	—	—	
Crossroads, " "	2,568 35 0	2,300	0 29 10	—	—	—	
Don Castle, " "	424 17 0	625	1 0 8	—	—	—	
Dunfanaghy, " "	2,473 17 8	1,670	1 4 7	—	—	—	
Desherry, " "	373 3 0	1,300	0 28 10	—	—	—	
Gortahork, " "	202 10 0	2,500	8 8 8	—	—	—	
Highmoleigh, " "	1,907 3 0	2,120	8 8 4	—	—	—	
Messanaghy, " "	400 7 0	1,800	8 8 8	—	—	—	
Arlis, " "	1,800 17 0	668	2 2 8	1 0 8	22 0 14	80 0 0	
					201 1 2	87 10 0	
					556 1 1	258 0 0	
					208 2 27	25 18 0	
					31 3 10	39 0 0	
					373 3 15	56 10 0	
					210 3 10	31 0 0	
Total of Rural District.	22,025 15 0	15,771	0 35 8	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF GLENTIES.

	E. S. S.		E. S. S.	E. S. S.	A. S. S.	E. S. S.
Annaghry, " "	753 6 0	5,000	0 4 11	—	—	—
Artes, " "	286 15 0	1,200	0 7 7	—	—	—
Ards, " "	1,008 35 0	1,000	0 10 3	—	—	—
Crovelly, " "	123 0 0	404	0 5 10	—	—	—
Crovellyagh, " "	205 2 0	470	0 11 10	—	—	—
Burns, " "	1,500 6 0	1,074	1 5 10	—	—	—
Dooherry, " "	316 21 0	365	0 9 8	—	—	—
Bunglow, " "	150 0 0	1,200	0 10 1	—	—	—
Flisown, " "	200 1 0	300	0 15 0	—	—	—
Glenacumbria, " "	321 12 0	1,500	0 6 4	—	—	—
Glenpeh, " "	800 15 0	1,300	0 6 1	—	—	—
Glenbeira, " "	410 16 0	400	0 18 2	—	—	—
Glenlee, " "	2,056 3 0	2,200	0 17 0	—	—	—
Glenry, " "	608 22 0	1,600	0 17 7	—	—	—
Inchkeel, " "	380 10 0	400	0 10 0	—	—	—
Kilcar, " "	300 17 0	1,200	0 25 0	—	—	—
Killybeg, " "	421 2 0	1,200	0 31 0	—	—	—
Killybeg, " "	2,845 5 0	3,000	1 0 1	—	—	—
Lacross, " "	228 10 0	300	0 17 10	—	—	—
Lisnagneward, " "	612 13 0	1,200	0 9 0	—	—	—
Moss, " "	708 20 0	140	1 0 3	—	—	—
Maghera, " "	502 20 0	2,200	0 6 0	—	—	—
Malishan, " "	300 4 0	600	0 35 2	—	—	—
Mahonagh, " "	407 12 0	510	0 12 2	—	—	—
Malind, " "	1,850 17 0	2,800	0 7 10	—	—	—
Theravilla, " "	202 10 0	400	0 15 0	—	—	—
Crossnacree, " "	602 20 0	777	1 10 10	—	—	—
Total of Rural District.	22,205 18 0	22,100	0 15 0	—	—	—

COUNTY OF DONEGAL—continued.

RURAL DISTRICT OF STRABANE, No. 2.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1906.	Popu- lation. (Census, 1904.)	Average Valuation per head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population in other parishes normally between 25s and 50s when all Valuations over 25s are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF ELECTED PARISHES		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	
Total of Rural District.	45,987 3 8	18,640	4 2 3	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF STRANORLAR.

Athleague.	1,790 12 8	1,277	1 5 8	—	—	—	
Clapham.	2,880 8 6	2,224	1 3 0	—	—	—	
Macanaghy.	200 11 6	342	1 3 8	—	—	—	
Doagh.	1,961 2 0	659	2 14 4	—	—	—	
Colson.	769 0 0	421	1 17 2	—	—	—	
Lisnmore.	1,694 18 9	529	2 16 0	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	11,146 15 8	7,998	2 18 5	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	31,258 5 0	32,707	2 8 7	—	—	—	

TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	108,938 12 0	371,922	3 15 5				
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COUNTY OF DOWN.

RURAL DISTRICT OF KILKREEL.

*Ballykeel.	2,567 17 0	1,893	1 6 18	—	—	—	
*Mullytown.	2,245 6 0	2,164	1 5 2	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	36,290 14 8	34,084	9 19 5	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	40,432 13 0	48,141	9 0 8	—	—	—	

TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	87,677 8 0	184,605	4 2 0				
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COUNTY OF FERMANAGH.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BELLERK.

*Mullytown.	358 6 0	177	2 13 6	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	16,058 1 0	6,830	2 15 2	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	16,416 7 0	7,007	2 15 1	—	—	—	

TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	22,874 8 8	13,837	3 12 30				
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COUNTY OF LONDONDERRY.

Electoral Division	Total Valuation 1895.	Popu- lation (Census, 1881)	Average Valuation per head of Population	Average Valuation per head of Population in areas averaging between 10s. and 20s. when all valuations over 20s. are omitted.	Area and Valuation of Excluded Holdings		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
TOTAL OF RURAL DIVISIONS IN COUNTY.	20,428 1 0	31,382	2 1 8				

COUNTY OF MONAGHAN.

TOTAL OF RURAL DIVISIONS IN COUNTY.	25,423 12 0	40,181	2 15 3				
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COUNTY OF TYRONE.

RURAL DISTRICT OF COOKSTOWN.

*Kilrea, . . .	1,770 1 8	1,331	1 8 8	—	—	—	
*Ballymore, . . .	1,222 6 9	895	1 35 6	1 8 1	551 1 3	27 8 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	57,212 0 0	18,864	3 3 5				
Total of Rural District.	60,205 7 8	20,990	2 10 11				

RURAL DISTRICT OF OMAGH.

*Carrickmore, . . .	1,498 16 9	1,002	1 7 5	—	—	—	
*Droghda, . . .	759 1 0	602	1 1 5	—	—	—	
*Edylougher, . . .	1,003 9 9	1,165	1 7 1	—	—	—	
*Longmansry, . . .	1,103 27 4	849	1 4 9	—	—	—	
*Fellagh, . . .	1,118 37 0	711	1 55 2	1 8 0	118 9 12	67 12 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	57,754 2 0	20,700	2 8 2				
Total of Rural District.	60,429 18 9	22,702	2 1 8				

RURAL DISTRICT OF STRABANE.

*Ottawick, . . .	1,438 12 0	754	1 8 5	—	—	—	
*Malra, . . .	1,503 11 0	785	1 8 2	—	—	—	
*Longbush, . . .	1,519 14 0	803	1 7 8	—	—	—	
*Stranagilly, . . .	858 8 0	803	1 3 4	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	22,617 10 0	17,094	2 1 7				
Total of Rural District	27,417 15 0	20,222	2 10 1				

TOTAL OF RURAL DIVISIONS IN COUNTY.	61,275 16 0	120,000	2 8 4				
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COUNTY OF CLARE.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLYVAUGHAN.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1906.	Popu- lation, 1906.	Average Valuation per head of Population	Average Valuation per head of Population in cases arising between 25s. and 50s. when all Valuations over 25s. are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF ENCLOSED HOLDINGS.		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	
Total of Rural District.	26,772 2 0	2,890	9 0 0				

RURAL DISTRICT OF COROFIN.

Total of Rural District.	20,206 10 0	4,500	4 4 11				
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RURAL DISTRICT OF ENNIS.

*Feroose.	328 4 0	680	1 6 7	—	—	—	
*Kintuck.	774 2 0	600	1 2 2	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	60,320 12 0	10,400	4 12 2				
Total of Rural District.	61,322 18 0	11,280	4 12 11				

RURAL DISTRICT OF ENNISTIMON.

*Closamakea.	820 16 0	500	1 6 10	—	—	—	
*Fermoyke.	704 0 0	510	1 2 6	—	—	—	
*Ennistimon.	6,072 2 0	5,000	1 12 0	1 7 11	254 3 77 24 1 34 207 2 28 67 0 20 65 0 50 12 0 0	67 0 0 63 15 0 222 5 0 32 15 0 71 0 0 690 0 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	14,596 0 0	12,010	2 6 1				
Total of Rural District.	15,492 0 0	13,000	2 2 2				

RURAL DISTRICT OF KILLADYSERT.

*Liscary.	547 2 0	700	1 1 4	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	24,560 2 0	3,470	2 10 2				
Total of Rural District.	25,107 0 0	4,170	2 10 11				

RURAL DISTRICT OF KILRUSH.

*Cahernaryke.	726 12 0	620	1 4 11	—	—	—	
*Dromedary.	1,242 0 0	1,000	1 7 0	—	—	—	
*Kilnash.	1,120 10 0	700	1 6 0	—	—	—	
*Glennamoy.	1,204 17 0	770	1 5 0	—	—	—	
*Knockmashole.	1,000 10 0	640	1 5 2	—	—	—	
*Drough.	1,070 11 0	600	1 10 7	1 7 4	120 0 0 300 0 0 30 0 0 30 0 0 20 0 0 20 0 0 20 0 0 20 0 0 20 0 0 20 0 0	15 10 0 50 0 0 50 0 0 50 0 0 50 0 0 50 0 0 50 0 0 50 0 0 50 0 0 50 0 0	
*Dromedary.	9,000 0 0	1,000	1 10 10	1 0 10			
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	36,570 0 0	12,500	2 2 11				
Total of Rural District.	45,570 0 0	13,500	1 12 0				

COUNTY OF CLARE—continued.
RURAL DISTRICT OF LIMERICK, No. 2.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Valuation 1865.	Popula- tion (Census, 1861.)	Average Valuation per head of Population who under 25.	Average Valuation per head of Population in cases normally between 25 and 50, when all Valuations over 50 are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED DIVISIONS.		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
	<i>R + d</i>		<i>L + d</i>	<i>C + d</i>	<i>A. B. P.</i>	<i>R + d</i>	
Total of Rural District.	35,635 15 0	7,589	4 6 5				

RURAL DISTRICT OF SCARRIFF.

*Cabernettown.	306 21 8	205	0 15 9	—	—	—	
*Cobles.	594 19 8	262	1 12 5	1 3 2	99 9 22	64 0 8	
*Keshmoneen.	607 15 0	555	2 37 1				
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	55,147 0 0	9,462	2 55 5				
Total of Rural District.	56,547 5 0	10,466	2 11 7				

RURAL DISTRICT OF TULLA.

*Kilbess.	1,127 11 9	860	1 5 14	—	—	—	
*Loughan.	795 0 0	435	1 15 1	1 7 9	1,055 9 27	79 0 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	31,795 0 0	5,477	3 54 39				
Total of Rural District.	32,422 5 0	6,337	3 5 4				

TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	353,267 15 0	822,662	2 0 9				
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COUNTY OF CORK.
RURAL DISTRICT OF BANDON.

Total of Rural District.	75,890 16 0	17,075	4 3 8				
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RURAL DISTRICT OF BANTRY.

Glenties.	621 0 0	375	1 5 8	—	—	—	
Eltonham.	1,634 15 0	1,420	1 9 1	—	—	—	
Scotin.	888 32 0	507	1 7 6	—	—	—	
Wapport.	900 27 0	715	1 2 9	—	—	—	
Glengarriff.	1,523 2 8	1,130	1 14 2	1 3 3	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> 97 2 20 125 9 21 313 5 7 290 1 1 325 2 15 </div>	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> 76 0 9 80 31 9 123 5 8 80 0 0 64 0 9 </div>	
AM.	533 3 8	459	1 12 21	—	—	—	
Darvel West.	1,707 10 0	467	3 3 8	—	—	—	
Darvel East.	1,455 9 0	759	1 27 21	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	15,905 12 0	7,990	2 1 1				
Total of Rural District.	43,732 14 0	35,065	2 21 5				

COUNTY OF CORK—continued.

RURAL DISTRICT OF CASTLETOWN.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Value, 1906.	Popu- lation, 1904.	Average Valuation per head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population in those divisions normally between 20s. and 40s. value all Valuations over 150 are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF RATED BUILDINGS		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
	A. R. S.		C. R. S.	C. R. S.	A. R. S.	£. S. D.	
Adripole,	3,539 17 0	1,629	2 21 3	—	—	—	
Bea,	1,068 6 0	1,385	3 0 7	—	—	—	
Corkagh,	3,007 18 0	1,603	1 4 7	—	—	—	
Curryglass,	3,117 11 0	960	3 2 2	—	—	—	
Ellenahern,	3,005 8 0	1,153	2 12 2	—	—	—	
Ellenahern's,	3,219 15 0	3,082	1 4 13	—	—	—	
Ellenahern's,	1,637 11 0	1,193	1 4 7	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District,	12,644 4 0	11,179	1 2 2				

RURAL DISTRICT OF CHARLEVILLE.

Total of Rural District,	20,008 18 0	4,128	5 0 0				
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RURAL DISTRICT OF CLONAKILTY.

Carrigroherry,	3,395 2	1,698	2 18 4	1 4 7	{	32 0 14	50 2 0	
						34 2 20	73 10 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	14,224 18 0	14,362	2 12 2			24 1 4	89 12 0	
						30 2 17	56 1 3	
Total of Rural District,	17,619 0 0	16,060	2 1 0			41 1 18	45 13 8	
						55 3 31	53 0 8	
						40 1 25	53 6 0	

RURAL DISTRICT OF CORK.

Total of Rural District,	98,531 4 3	49,347	2 13 11					
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RURAL DISTRICT OF DUNMANWAY.

Total of Rural District,	24,427 40 0	12,321	2 11 8					
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RURAL DISTRICT OF FERMOY.

*Carrig,	438 8 0	283	1 18 2	1 3 10	{	208 1 15	64 8 0	
						208 0 3	63 10 0	
						206 1 25	55 8 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	85,905 7 0	45,354	5 14 10					
Total of Rural District,	86,343 17 0	45,637	5 13 0					

COUNTY OF CORK - continued.

RURAL DISTRICT OF KANTURK.

ELECTORAL DIVISION	Total Rateable Valuation, 1900	Popula- tion, (Census, 1911)	Average Valuation per head of Population	Average Valuation per head of Population in cases where valued between 10s. and 10s. where all Valuations over 10s. are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED HOLDINGS		REMARKS
					Area.	Valuation	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A. P.	£ s. d.	
*Glentworth East. . .	1,612 18 0	512	4 9 11	—	—	—	
*Glentworth West. . .	500 10 0	338	1 5 5	—	—	—	
*Kilmeadow. . .	708 18 0	717	0 16 6	—	—	—	
*Kilgarra/Kilmeadow. .	827 12 0	759	1 0 1	—	—	—	
*Kilmeadow. . .	890 18 0	779	1 3 2	—	—	—	
*Moor. . .	1,700 0 0	1,200	1 4 0	—	—	—	
					159 2 50	31 8 0	
					136 3 10	60 15 0	
					134 1 15	72 15 0	
					154 3 37	86 15 0	
					341 9 6	151 15 0	
					502 2 25	87 15 0	
					100 1 5	52 15 0	
					164 27 1 21	33 0 0	
*Boherkey. . .	1,100 0 0	1,027	1 10 0	1 7 9			
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	79,637 13 0	31,291	4 1 8				
Total of Rural District.	79,637 13 0	31,291	4 1 8				

RURAL DISTRICT OF KINSALE.

Total of Rural District.	35,000 15 0	12,425	4 8 7				
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RURAL DISTRICT OF MACROOM.

Glennagh. . .	500 7 9	405	1 0 11	—	—	—	
Reekinagh. . .	1,234 2 6	730	1 10 8	—	—	—	
Glennagh. . .	1,795 3 6	967	1 10 11	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	37,000 17 0	20,021	2 16 10				
Total of Rural District.	40,329 12 0	22,995	3 13 30				

RURAL DISTRICT OF MALLOW.

Total of Rural District.	30,700 18 0	20,724	4 13 8				
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RURAL DISTRICT OF MIDLETON.

Total of Rural District.	30,000 18 0	21,000	5 1 8				
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RURAL DISTRICT OF MILLSTREET.

Total of Rural District.	21,275 2 0	10,035	2 11 10				
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RURAL DISTRICT OF MITCHELSTOWN, No. 1.

Total of Rural District.	21,000 0 0	8,000	2 15 0				
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COUNTY OF CORK—continued.

RURAL DISTRICT OF SKIBBEREEN.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1895	Popula- tion, (Census, 1891)	Average Valuation per head of Population	Average Valuation per head of Population in cases partially between 2s. and 5s., where all valuations over 5s. are included	AREA AND VALUATION OF REGISTERED HOLDINGS.		REMARKS
					Area.	Valuation.	
	S. d.		S. d.	S. d.	A. R. P.	S. d.	
Cape Clear, . . .	1,385 9 6	1,133	1 3 7	—	—	—	
Donadelegue North, . . .	694 15 6	559	1 3 11	—	—	—	
Thallich, . . .	1,721 0 6	1,075	1 5 11	—	—	—	
*Myross, . . .	2,524 10 8	1,555	1 15 5	1 9 8	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> 62 1 30 60 1 10 24 0 12 60 0 12 126 0 12 </div>	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> 66 0 6 57 10 6 103 15 6 66 15 6 127 0 6 </div>	
Aghavea South, . . .	4,747 25 8	1,620	1 15 11	—	—	—	
Doonagh, . . .	1,715 0 0	1,626	1 15 6	—	—	—	
Donahavea South, . . .	1,881 30 8	994	1 17 11	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	202,6 20 8	12,885	2 3 6	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	41,937 25 8	25,987	1 19 1	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF SKULL.

Fallpaleah, . . .	2,131 1 0	1,806	1 16 0	—	—	—	
Ornaghaven, . . .	1,646 15 0	1,238	1 3 3	—	—	—	
Skull, . . .	1,862 9 0	1,674	1 10 4	—	—	—	
Tuomeera, . . .	545 15 0	467	1 7 6	—	—	—	
Donnabreena, . . .	1,394 15 0	779	1 16 8	1 7 10	208 3 21	100 15 8	
Doonagh, . . .	825 15 0	541	1 14 3	—	—	—	
Donabreena, . . .	1,267 8 0	665	1 13 9	—	—	—	
Gooleen, . . .	1,140 9 0	719	1 16 3	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	6,345 15 0	2,054	2 9 2	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	15,080 15 0	30,253	1 10 0	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF YOUGHAL, No. 1.

Total of Rural District.	78,354 6 6	6,719	9 19 4				
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY	1,045,015 6 6	250,164	4 9 1				

COUNTY OF KERRY.

RURAL DISTRICT OF CAHERSIVEEN.

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1900.	Population, (Census, 1901).	Average Valuation per Head of Population.	Average Valuation per Head of Population in 1900 compared with 1890, when all Valuations over £10 are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED HOLDINGS.		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.	A. R. P.	s. d.	
Bakelagh.	537 10 6	726	1 3 6	—	—	—	
Bellinakeety.	1,641 18 0	1,580	6 19 7	—	—	—	
Billybreck.	402 18 0	350	1 6 10	—	—	—	
Calter.	1,948 12 0	1,411	1 3 1	—	—	—	
Caherdaniel.	551 0 6	658	0 17 10	—	—	—	
Chapel.	559 12 6	643	6 19 4	—	—	—	
Cloes.	330 2 0	307	1 7 6	—	—	—	
Cunnaghben.	394 12 0	310	1 3 7	—	—	—	
Derryvane.	515 12 0	321	1 3 0	—	—	—	
Doonane.	911 0 0	336	1 6 2	—	—	—	
Enlish.	1,090 8 6	1,023	1 3 19	—	—	—	
Grassaby.	4,231 2 6	3,388	1 3 5	—	—	—	
Lacken.	361 16 0	376	6 15 4	—	—	—	
Leagh Gannoe.	1,307 2 0	1,735	1 3 11	—	—	—	
Manorparry.	551 10 0	425	1 7 3	—	—	—	
Mares.	716 0 6	325	1 7 10	—	—	—	
Portmagee.	751 0 0	323	6 19 6	—	—	—	
St. Flann's.	690 14 0	452	1 6 6	—	—	—	
Tecumacraugh.	361 16 0	779	1 7 0	—	—	—	
Valencia.	1,145 18 0	1,364	1 5 2	—	—	—	
Kilman.	1,698 17 6	367	1 16 1	1 3 1	7 12 11 16 18 10 14 10 10 10 10 10	61 0 0 264 0 0 500 10 0 275 16 0 113 12 0	Railway.
Carthage.	2,207 10 0	1,283	1 14 5	—	—	—	
Total Rural District.	26,255 0 0	70,435	1 6 1	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF DINGLE.

Belinacree.	890 15 0	696	1 9 5	—	—	—
Brecon.	436 12 0	618	0 14 5	—	—	—
Cadlogreedy.	1,711 1 0	1,836	1 0 9	—	—	—
Chaghale.	733 6 6	736	6 19 9	—	—	—
Doolin.	816 5 0	327	0 19 0	—	—	—
Droghda.	536 15 6	656	0 17 8	—	—	—
Eggauskra.	649 16 6	1,250	0 16 9	—	—	—
Kilquane.	674 8 0	1,179	0 17 6	—	—	—
Kesh.	1,156 11 0	477	1 6 2	—	—	—
Lack.	635 11 0	390	1 3 1	—	—	—
Marion.	716 10 0	354	1 6 5	—	—	—
Vealry.	1,619 14 6	1,716	1 6 2	—	—	—
Dingle.	4,666 18 0	4,606	1 19 1	1 6 7	443 3 12 419 0 0 111 11 11 27 10 10 76 0 10 118 1 10	195 10 0 128 0 0 64 10 0 16 0 0 24 10 0 506 6 0
Dunleavy.	1,021 3 0	797	1 19 6	1 9 0	596 1 17	61 5 0
Adjuvancry.	1,561 14 6	624	1 15 5	—	—	—
Total of all other Electoral Divisions.	5,991 19 0	5,947	1 18 11	—	—	—
Total of Rural District.	20,707 7 0	31,274	1 6 11	—	—	—

COUNTY OF KERRY—continued.

RURAL DISTRICT OF KENMARE.

ELECTORAL DIVISION	Total Rateable Valuation, 1901	Popu- lation, (Census, 1901)	Average Valuation per head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population in cases normally between 20 and 25, when all Valuations over 250 are included.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED LOCALITIES		REMARKS
					Area.	Valuation.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	
Ardes,	1,075 12 0	398	1 5 3	—	—	—	
Bearna,	908 0 0	723	1 7 4	—	—	—	
Castle Conn.	1,350 5 0	1,592	9 27 19	—	—	—	
Glenties,	601 12 0	479	1 5 0	—	—	—	
Glencorm,	512 25 0	803	1 1 8	—	—	—	
Samson,	1,030 7 0	1,407	1 4 11	—	—	—	
Tahra,	1,122 5 0	502	1 3 4	—	—	—	
*Dessau,	1,112 4 0	501	2 0 0	1 5 1	430 1 30 105 1 30	307 13 0 31 15 0	
Kemare	4,196 18 0	2,479	1 13 10	1 5 4	203 2 30 5 9 2 5 9 20 4 9 0 2 9 4	30 19 0 34 15 0 179 30 4 24 9 0 37 10 0	Railway. do. Railway.
Kilgarvan,	2,025 10 0	1,490	1 10 1	1 5 10	224 1 50 27 0 30 31 7 0 31 11 11 34 9 0 9 1 30	72 0 0 39 35 0 117 6 0 122 30 0 38 5 0 27 0 0 21 30 0	Railway, do. do. do. do.
Smara,	1,131 20 0	717	1 11 0	—	—	—	
Glackagh,	790 2 0	526	1 30 0	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	1,536 12 0	1,068	1 10 1	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	24,900 4 0	24,907	1 9 11	—	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF KILLARNEY.

Carragh,	1,621 5 0	1,000	0 27 8	—	—	—	
Coora,	1,621 24 0	1,073	1 5 7	—	—	—	
Curranebeg,	996 45 0	708	1 10 10	—	—	—	
Doonacra,	1,100 7 0	509	1 5 1	—	—	—	
Kilfingla,	4,731 4 0	2,990	1 2 8	—	—	—	
Cooley,	802 0 0	531	1 10 0	1 4 2	29 2 0 25 0 30	55 0 0 55 0 0	
*Dessau,	1,410 10 0	593	2 0 0	1 7 11	131 2 0 30 0 0 14 3 30 130 3 30 31 1 30	35 0 0 32 0 0 35 15 0 35 0 0 37 30 0	
*Hendfort,	1,513 24 0	545	2 17 0	1 5 10	8 0 30 2 0 27 230 0 0 7 3 34	107 0 0 120 0 0 56 35 0 100 0 0	Railway and station, do.
*Rathmore,	2,692 5 0	1,277	2 17 4	4 11	0 2 10 200 0 22 8 1 30 10 0 20 30 1 2 31 1 30	30 0 0 27 0 0 71 35 0 181 0 0 118 0 0 35 0 0 30 0 0	Railway. Railway do. do. do. do. Railway and station, Railway
Clapham,	424 25 0	400	1 10 0	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	10,204 2 0	17,069	2 2 0	—	—	—	
Total of Rural District.	24,922 2 0	24,919	2 0 8	—	—	—	

COUNTY OF LIMERICK.
RURAL DISTRICT OF GLIN.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1885	Popula- tion, (Census, 1881)	Average Valuation per head of Population	Average Valuation per head of Population of those usually between 16 and 60, when all Valuations over 100 are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED HOLDINGS		REMARKS
					Area.	Valuation.	
	<i>£ s. d.</i>		<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>A. R. P.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	
*Elmergoe	1,055 18 0	262	4 1 9	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	7,735 7 0	3,358	2 3 1				
Total of Rural District.	8,790 17 0	4,001	2 10 1				

RURAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE.

*Abbeystead, . . .	1,965 0 0	437	4 5 7	—	—	—	
*Caher,	778 10 0	219	3 5 0	—	—	—	
*Glencurt,	1,267 12 0	145	8 7 0	—	—	—	
*Glouchersfield, . .	845 0 0	225	3 7 3	—	—	—	
*Meenafelina, . . .	602 8 0	775	0 17 1	—	—	—	
*Rathvenna,	1,655 7 0	1253	1 3 11	—	—	—	
*Shooshaugh, . . .	533 3 0	628	0 23 0	—	—	—	
*Templecleave, . . .	1,622 18 0	1,492	1 7 30	—	—	—	
*Boole,	700 1 0	323	2 16 3	1 0 0	250 1 32	28 0 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	27,958 9 0	10,593	2 6 3				
Total of Rural District.	32,600 12 0	12,793	2 10 0				
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY	327,455 18 0	101,267	3 2 7				

COUNTY OF TIPPERARY, N.R.

RURAL DISTRICT OF NENAGH.

*Arlington,	1,605 0 0	1,069	1 5 0	—	—	—	
*Droghda,	875 0 0	500	1 7 1	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	30,895 7 0	15,617	1 10 0				
Total of Rural District.	33,375 12 0	16,186	2 0 4				

RURAL DISTRICT OF THURLES.

*Fethanna,	1,005 0 0	755	1 3 12	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions	35,530 10 0	15,375	2 10 7				
Total of Rural District.	36,535 0 0	16,130	2 13 0				
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY	365,835 0 0	135,256	2 11 0				

COUNTY OF TIPPERARY, S.R.
RURAL DISTRICT OF TIPPERARY, No 1.

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Rural Valuation, £00.	Popula- tion (Census, 1881.)	Average Valuation per head of Population	Average Valuation per head of Population in other divisions between 186 and 188 when all Valuations over £25 are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EVALUATED HOLDINGS.		TOWNLANDS
					Area.	Valuation.	
*Carraheen.	30 8 4	608	1 14 5	1 9 8	386 1 0 185 3 04	32 10 0 33 10 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	305,286 0 0	15,729	1 16 8				
Total of Rural District.	305,321 14 0	15,736	1 16 8				
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	305,321 2 0	15,736	1 16 8				

COUNTY OF WATERFORD.

TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	30,233 8 0	35,338	4 13 0	
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III.—MEMORANDUM ON STATE-AIDED EMIGRATION.

* * This Memorandum was prepared by desire of the Commission.

Under the Poor Law Amendment (Ireland) Act, 1849 (12 and 13 Vic., c. 104, sec. 20), Boards of Guardians were empowered, with the consent of the Poor Law Commissioners (now of the Local Government Board) to apply part of the rates and to borrow

money on the security of the rates, "for the purposes of defraying or assisting to defray the expenses of the emigration of poor persons resident within any Union or Electoral Division."

The following statement (taken from the 34th Report of the Local Government Board) shows the number of persons assisted to emigrate, and the cost incurred for that purpose under the provisions of the Act,

—	Amount authorized to be expended by Local Councils	Number of Persons assisted to emigrate			
		Men.	Women.	Children under 16 years of age	Total.
August, 1849, to 25 March, 1851,	£ s. d.				
Year ended 25 March, 1852,	11,151 14 11	561	1,344	787	2,592
" " 1853,	21,010 5 4½	790	2,644	952	4,386
" " 1854,	14,517 0 11½	492	2,218	1,115	3,825
" " 1855,	12,446 17 6	408	1,202	995	2,605
" " 1856,	24,268 5 2½	159	2,647	788	3,794
" " 1857,	3,618 6 9	64	563	403	830
" " 1858,	2,719 15 1	76	583	363	862
" " 1859,	4,177 10 1½	58	469	302	829
" " 1860,	2,355 16 6	37	270	180	487
" " 1861,	1,729 19 2	45	178	141	364
" " 1862,	1,465 10 11	44	178	125	347
" " 1863,	528 17 4	12	72	58	122
" " 1864,	2,459 10 3	41	317	139	497
" " 1865,	6,770 4 5	123	501	345	969
" " 1866,	2,618 17 11	93	315	428	836
" " 1867,	5,425 9 11	109	360	660	1,129
" " 1868,	2,023 10 0	68	238	419	705
" " 1869,	1,983 9 6	71	263	483	817
" " 1870,	1,838 13 9	71	205	429	705
" " 1871,	1,959 12 5	43	219	449	711
" " 1872,	2,956 9 11	53	226	429	708
" " 1873,	2,092 5 10	34	223	330	587
" " 1874,	1,594 14 8	44	173	364	581
" " 1875,	2,246 3 5	67	313	474	854
" " 1876,	1,247 15 1	36	192	280	508
" " 1877,	991 0 6	38	97	223	358
" " 1878,	556 17 4	13	71	116	200
" " 1879,	338 4 7	15	49	81	145
" " 1880,	551 1 3	32	83	129	244
" " 1881,	721 5 1	55	91	146	292
" " 1882,	3,482 15 0	210	554	546	1,314
" " 1883,	4,311 2 2	225	564	603	1,492
" " 1884,	4,293 16 3½	312	654	690	1,656
" " 1885,	4,346 5 2	417	849	904	2,170
" " 1886,	1,288 5 8	105	309	499	913
" " 1887,	1,153 13 1	64	233	354	651
" " 1888,	1,493 13 8	103	249	366	728
" " 1889,	1,371 0 0	116	263	342	720
" " 1890,	1,219 12 6	122	261	410	793
" " 1891,	879 12 1	65	190	258	513
" " 1892,	880 0 6	73	193	225	491
" " 1893,	1,027 12 8	63	168	196	327
" " 1894,	371 13 9	29	98	119	246
" " 1895,	131 5 0	10	45	33	88
" " 1896,	167 10 0	15	54	42	111
" " 1897,	170 6 9	15	68	16	99
" " 1898,	120 2 8	7	31	25	63
" " 1899,	195 8 0	12	24	28	64
" " 1900,	79 5 0	4	24	16	44
" " 1901,	56 10 0	3	19	12	34
" " 31 March, 1901,	72 10 0	6	13	27	46
" " 1902,	29 10 0	7	7	10	24
" " 1903,	47 0 0	6	13	14	33
" " 1904,	64 3 3	6	11	12	29
" " 1905,	38 0 0	6	12	12	30
" " 1906,	23 0 0	6	8	5	19
Total,	161,440 7 2½	5,826	20,902	18,044	44,772

Under the *Arrears of Rent (Ireland) Act, 1882* (45 & 46 Vic., c. 42), power was given to borrow from Public Funds on easier terms for the above purposes, and the Treasury might authorise the Commissioners of Public Works to make grants to Boards of Guardians for emigration purposes, the total grants not to exceed £100,000, and the sums granted not to exceed £5 for each person assisted. These grants were confined to Unions, or Electoral divisions situate wholly or in part in the nine counties, part of which are at present scheduled as congested, the Unions of Belmullet, Newport, Sarnford, Clifden, and Oughterard, being specially mentioned.

Under the *Tramways and Public Companies (Ireland) Act, 1883* (46 and 47 Vic., c. 43), the limit of the grant was increased to £300,000, of which one-quarter might be applied for the purpose of emigrating "persons or families," and the limit of individual grants was increased to £25.

The grants made to Unions in the nine counties in the two sessions up to 25th August, 1894, amounted to £120,006 5s. 3d., and the expense of management up to that date was £6,217 7s. 6d., making a total of £126,223 12s. 9d., and leaving available out of the sum of £150,000 provided for emigration purposes a balance of £23,776 7s. 3d. A few persons, previously selected, were after that date allowed to leave, and the grant allotted to them was £125 10s. 6d. Further small grants were made during 1895-1896 which brought the total grants and expenses of management up to a sum of £133,172 10s. 2d. The sections under which these grants were made were repealed by section 35 of the Land Act of 1894, which established the Congested Districts Board.

WALTER CALLAN,

Secretary.

3rd October, 1905.

ADVERTISEMENTS
FIRST REPORT.

DOCUMENTS RELATING THERETO.